



## FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

“Light is supposed to signify good, vision, and knowledge.”

Ravali Poreddy  
Sophomore

# Surrounded by Technology



In the lower level of the Administration Building, past many desks and behind a locked door, is a room full of magic. It is not the pulling rabbits out of hats or waving wands type of magic – rather, it is magical in the sense that, to most, its powers are completely bewildering. To the unaware, the room contains mysterious stacks of plastic boxes, connected by a colorful weave of wires and adorned with spots of flashing red, green and yellow light. In reality, this room is the technological nucleus of the School District of Clayton, the room that holds servers for everything from Powerschool to First Class to student log-ins. This room, the plastic boxes it so benignly houses and the dozens of technological advances that the District has adopted and incorporated into its function have come to play an increasingly vital and dominant role in the lives of Clayton students and teachers – for better or for worse.

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Food items available at the nonprofit café are sold on a ‘take what you need, pay your fair share’ basis.

## Panera Cares gives back to community

Jackie Leong  
Managing Editor

Gambling on the conscience of an entire community is quite an undertaking. Winning the bet is an even sweeter feat.

St. Louis Bread Company Cares—formerly a standard café under the same address at 10 South Central Ave. in downtown Clayton—has done just that. Only a few months after the café’s reopening as a nonprofit, one can conclude that the idea of ‘take what you need, pay your fair share’ isn’t going to be burning out anytime soon.

“The idea is catching on,” hospitality and volunteer coordinator Terri Barr said. “More people are reading and hearing about us, and they’re coming in to see how things are. They want to be a part of it.”

And contribute they do—whether in the form of donations or service, or both. Three-quarters of patrons pay at least the suggested donation, the price of the food at a regular Panera. Those who can’t still try to give something, or offer to volunteer instead—an hour of service is equal to one free meal.

“We try to make these people feel like they’re not charity,” Barr said. “They often feel as if they’re taking

advantage of the system.” The café is a popular place for volunteers of all sorts, however. Barr reports a considerable crowd of those eager to give their time and service, including freshman Sarah Casteel, who began volunteering in the summer. Though Casteel had to put her volunteering on hiatus because of the tennis season, she picked it back up when it ended.

“My mom just recommended it to me and I love it,” Casteel said. “I’ve gotten to be good friends with people there, and because the greeters aren’t there on the weekends, I’m going to be hired as one. Right now, I’m working on memorizing the script and FAQ’s. And because I volunteer, I get dinner when I go there.”

On the other end of the spectrum are those who truly do abuse the system—those who can pay but don’t. Though the Cares café suffered a number of abuses in the beginning, the problem has diminished greatly over time.

“You find that if you put a little guilt on them, they begin to feel the responsibility,” Barr said. “I just say, ‘If you continue to take and not give, then we can’t help others who really need this.’”

Casteel agrees.

“You find that if you put a little guilt on them, they begin to feel the responsibility. I just say, ‘If you continue to take and not give, then we can’t help others who really need this.’”

Terri Barr  
Volunteer Coordinator

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## Smoking Ban concerns local businesses

Laura Bleeke  
Managing Editor

In the United States, 27 states have enacted statewide smoking bans in all enclosed public places. Although this list does not contain Missouri more and more cities within the state, including Clayton, are beginning to issue bans.

Clayton was the second St. Louis County municipality to ban indoor smoking, following Ballwin. The ban went into effect July 2010; one year after the city council met and decided to issue it.

Although the law was passed unanimously among the board members, it did not gain popular approval from everyone.

Bill Hannegan from Keep St. Louis Free, an organization that “fights to protect the personal freedoms and property rights of St. Louisans”, was a leader in the fight against the Clayton smoking ban. Hannegan began working against the smoking ban after a group of Clayton restaurant owners turned to him for assistance out of fear that a smoking ban would significantly affect their business.

“When the ban first went into effect other cities around Clayton did not have a smoking ban,” Hannegan said. “And so the Clayton restaurants were very afraid that they would be at a disadvantage with other venues and that they might go out of business.”

Five months into the smoking

ban, some restaurants are already beginning to feel the economic results of the ban.

“I think the bar business in Clayton has been hurt,” Hannegan said. “I don’t know if food sales have been hurt, but I definitely think the bar aspect of restaurants in Clayton has been down and owners have told me that it’s been down.”

Molly Darcy’s pub in downtown Clayton has seen a decrease in customers after the smoking ban, but founder Carl Winters hopes this is only temporary.

“We have seen many of our regular happy hour drinkers leave the pub for bars in surrounding communities where smoking is still allowed,” Winters said. “We are hopeful they will return when the countywide ban goes into effect. Financially we have experienced no positive effects.”

One of the main reasons for the financial problems that restaurants are experiencing is the isolation of the Clayton smoking ban. Clayton is the one of the few cities in the area that has a ban, drawing customers away.

“Had Clayton officials showed some patience and implemented the ban in conjunction with the countywide ban,” Winters said. “You would not have seen the exodus of smokers from Clayton establishments.”

Not all restaurants blame the recent smoking ban for bad business. The nationwide economic downturn is also a major contributor.

“It is tough to gauge exactly how much the smoking ban has impacted business at Miso because of the fact that the bar is typically slower in the summer,” Brad Beracha founder of Miso Lounge and Araka Restaurant in Clayton said. “And the economy continues to drag.”

Although the smoking ban has been in effect for five months, some restaurants have not noticed much of a difference from their clients or received any opinions, either positive or negative, in regards to the affects of the ban.

“It seems like Clayton as a whole is down and again it is tough to pinpoint the culprit,” Beracha said. “My guess is that it is more economy driven than not. We have seen our bar business increase since the weather has turned, which is typically what happens, but I have really not gotten any good, bad, or indifferent feedback about the fact that smoking is no longer allowed in restaurants.”

Students are among those restaurant customers who have not really noticed a change as a result of the ban.

“I haven’t noticed much of a difference in Clayton restaurants since the smoking ban has gone into effect,” sophomore Alex Watkins said. “In the past, before the ban, people were courteous and went outside when they wanted to smoke, so there hasn’t been much of a change.”

Although Clayton is somewhat of an island with regard to smoking bans, more and more cities are fol-

lowing by passing smoking bans. A countywide ban will come into effect on January 1, 2011.

“Clayton kind of kicked things off,” Hannegan said. “And they got a sort of domino effect going. That was the intention. I don’t think the Alderman in Clayton had any attention of putting a smoking ban on Clayton alone. I think they thought that they were stirring the pot, getting things going.”

Despite the disadvantage that many bars and restaurants gained from the smoking ban, some establishments are trying to adhere to the new law and work around it.

“We are trying to appeal to both sides of our clientele base,” Winters said. “We are promoting a smoke free food and beverage environment inside the pub to attract those consumers who rate this as important. Also we promote cigar friendly events in our courtyard, where smoking is legal. There is a strong interest from many Clayton area consumers in fine cigars and specialty liquors.”

Although many bars and restaurants in Clayton have seen an economic downturn since the smoking ban was passed, the ban is not the only factor in their financial problems.

“I just feel that there are so many factors working against the bar business right now that to only point a finger at the smoking ban, would be short-sighted,” Beracha said.

Graphic by Sarah Blackwell



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# College application process incites stress

Students, teachers and the administration struggle amidst the challenges and requirements of the strenuous college application process with the limited assistance of only one college counselor.

**Katherine Ren**  
Reporter

Early mornings composed of four hours of filling in bubbles, late nights spent tapping out one's life story, and non-existent spring breaks used to drive across the nation—like the holidays, the college application process comes once a year. However, unlike the smell of eggnog, the glow of candles, and the sound of sleigh bells ringing through the frigid winter air; the hand cramps, college-visiting weekends, and stress last way beyond December.

Though every application process has its own twists and turns, the so called "protocol" each applicant must abide by has proven to be similar to the cheek-pinching relatives and holiday sweaters students all must endure — for they are all universal traditions that time just can't seem to erase. Similar to holiday carols, students can all recite the words that describe the day and life of a high school student going through the application process.

"There is a lot going into the college process," senior Brett Virgin-Downey said. "You have to research and visit colleges, and have some inkling of what field you want to go into. In addition, you have to get teacher recommendations, fill out applications, and revise, revise, revise all your essays."

Once the standardized testing is out of the way, students are then bombarded with hours of writing essays and getting teacher recommendations.

"[Since] the essays aren't very long, every word counts, making revision an absolute must," Virgin-Downey said.

Likewise, many students find themselves encountering the same obstacles.

"I think the hardest thing about writing the essays is thinking of what to write about," senior Tom Haslam said. "There's a lot of pressure on what you say because every sentence changes the reader's opinion of you. In addition, balancing grades and applications is also very difficult. It's like an endless cycle because if you don't do your homework, you get bad grades and you lessen your chance of going to your college of choice, but the later you apply, the same thing happens."

Unfortunately, with the unexpected loss of one of CHS' college counselors prior to the start of school, this year's seniors and staff are finding the application process even more stressful.

"It's really unbelievable," CHS college counselor Carolyn Blair said. "I mean it's just not really describable. This change was forced upon us. This was no one's



College counselor Carolyn Blair works with senior Phoebe Railneau. The college application process has been complicated by Chat Leonard's unexpected departure in August, which left Blair as the only college counselor.

idea, you know, because we lost somebody. We're just responding because this is just the situation we're in. There was not anyone we could hire at the time that we found out we needed to hire someone that had the knowledge base to step in."

In attempts to accommodate the loss of a college counselor, Blair has cut back on her schedule in order to satisfy the needs of CHS seniors.

"Part of my job is here at Clayton and part of it is out in the college community," Blair said. "I am on several university advisory boards around the country, so in a normal year, I do a lot of traveling to attend those meetings as well as visiting colleges. However, this year I have cut back on my travels. What has changed the most for me is volume. The volume of writing letters of recommendations and answering questions has increased drastically from last year. I've tried to educate people in groups because I thought it would be easier than doing it one by one. So I had several group information sessions for both students and parents. We had about seven

or more different meetings to [provide them with] pertinent information. However that doesn't work entirely because people still need to get questions answered one by one. It's been a lot of emailing and just a lot of work — lots of letters to write, emails to answer, and forms to prepare."

However, these scheduling changes still seem to fall short of the expectations of the seniors, since some are feeling that they are traveling the road solo.

"Our class had some bad luck with the Clayton School District," Haslam said. "The loss of one of our college counselors without forewarning was an example. We now use a program called Naviance Family Connection that is supposed to help organize a student's choices for college and get their teacher recommendations done. I like the fact that you can access your college info from any computer, but I feel like it puts too much work on Mrs. Blair's shoulders to have everyone requesting recommendations from her. Mrs. Blair has been helpful with understanding the process, but I feel like it's basi-

cally all up to me to get things done."

Likewise, many seniors feel as though the change has given them little room to experiment during the process.

"Now that CHS has one counselor, I think more emphasis is put on the students to get things right," Virgin-Downey said. "If the students meet all their deadlines and fill out their questionnaires, it makes Ms. Blair's job way easier. I guess you could say there had never been any room for error on the student's part, but now more than ever."

In addition, many students also feel as though they aren't receiving the preferred amount of assistance during the process due to the shortage of counselors.

"It's definitely gotten harder," senior Mimi Liu said. "I'll come into the counselor's office to sign up for a time with the counselor and see that the next three weeks are filled up. I e-mail Mrs. Blair a lot and usually she is pretty good at getting back my e-mails, even if her answers are a bit short. I realize Mrs. Blair has a lot on her plate, but I definitely wish I could spend a little more time with her."

The seniors, however, have gotten the better end of the deal—for Mrs. Blair's short emails come with a reason.

"I have right now 342 emails in my inbox," Blair said. "I know that it is difficult for people to realize, because people just see their situation and they are not concerned about other students, their focus is on themselves and their needs, as it should be, but it's hard for people to realize that my focus is on the entire class and every single student needs and deserves some of my time, but I am just one person. Ultimately, the concern is if I got their stuff done, is really the bottom line."

Although the process is even more strenuous this year, with the assistance of CHS' counseling team, Blair has been able to make the best of the situation to her ability.

"It's all been doable based on the support of the other counselors," Blair said. "I have a lot of outside responsibilities, like I'm on the administrative team and also in charge of registration. Another counselor has gone to the administrative meetings for me so that I can free up my time to meet with students. From the beginning of school to right now, I have not traveled as much as normal and other counselors have gone to those administrative team type meetings for me so that I could be available every period. I've pretty much tried to make myself available every day possible, every single period, including lunch and after school just for students." ☺

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Pam's Barber Styling on Wydown Blvd. continues the location's long-established barbershop tradition.

## New owner revives barbershop

**Jake Lee**  
Editor

Continuing the barbershop tradition from the 1930s, Pamela Saputo replaced the classic barbershop on Wydown with her own shop, Pam's Barber Styling. However, what happened to the previous owner of the ancient barbershop? The previous barbershop, known as John's of Clayton, is considered to be an antique building of Clayton and the sudden closing of the shop caused surprise to many.

"John was here for 46 years, but because of health reasons, he had to retire," Saputo said. "He was 86 years old."

Though the legacy of John's Barbershop has ceased, Saputo revives the barbershop, both literally and figuratively.

"After doing a total makeover, everything in my shop is updated with state of the art equipment," Saputo said. "Previously, it was from the 1930s, so before the building was old and worn-out."

Along with the remodeling of the building, Saputo also brings a unique air to the ancient barbershop.

"Women used to not be allowed in the barbershop," Saputo said. "It's a new thing. There are very few female barbers so that makes me unique from the other shops and to this building as well."

Even with the remodeling of the barbershop and the new feeling Saputo brings, she claims that it is still the same shop for men to come to.

"It's still that same barbershop for men," Saputo said. "But it's not an old school barbershop like it used to be."

Not only does the modern feel of the barbershop guarantee the comfortableness of the customers, but Saputo also talks about how the location in Clayton makes her feel at ease.

"This shop has always been a barbershop since the 1930s which is one of the reasons why I chose to start my business here," Saputo said. "Not to mention it's very visible and the pedestrian activity makes it a great location. I love it here because it's a neighborhood feel but you're still in the city."

To top it off, Saputo's versatility in her haircuts is sure to bring suc-

cess and satisfaction to customers.

"I can do any style of work," Saputo said. "Clipperwork, sheers, full face, razor shaves with hot steam towels, color, and manicures. It's a full service shop for men only."

No matter the type of haircut, the prices remain between the affordable price range of \$15 to \$24, \$15 for kids, \$18 for college students, and \$24 for adults. The shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Appointments can be made and walk-ins are also welcome.

Saputo reveals why she decided to become a barber and how it affected her current career.

"Being exposed to the Barber business from a family member gave me the idea and opportunity to become Barber stylist," Saputo said.

Saputo is confident she will be as successful as the barbers she knows and believes that her shop will thrive for many years.

"It's the only modern updated barbershop around here and I love this area," Saputo said. "I look forward to becoming the new neighborhood barber stylist." ☺





In the tabulations room at the Clayton Fall Classic Debate Tournament, senior Ian Miller gives instructions to some of the novices about scheduling. This was the 20th year for this event and the funds raised at it are used to help fund the Clayton team's activities.

## Debaters coordinate Clayton Fall Classic

**Maddy Bullard**  
Senior Managing Editor

The time has come for the Clayton Fall Classic, a debate event that takes place at Clayton High School.

"I think tournament time may be my favorite time of year," senior Ian Miller said. "Once it gets going, it's such a rush to orchestrate the chaos of floods of judges and competitors flowing in and out."

Miller participates in events, which involve individual performances, both original and interpretive.

The speech and debate team travels to other schools in St. Louis and throughout the state to compete in various events. The team reciprocates by hosting its own debate tournament.

This year, the tournament takes place on Friday, Nov. 19 in the evening and during the day on Saturday, Nov. 20.

"This year is the twentieth annual Clayton Fall Classic," senior Becca Steinberg said. "So, this is the twentieth year that we have hosted a debate tournament."

The students organizing the tournament this year have a general sense of ritual and continuance in regards to their work on this special event.

"This is the twentieth tournament we've held," Miller said. "The sense of tradition—that we are carrying a torch that years of students

before us have carried—is really empowering."

The tournament comprises a variety of events. Some of these involve individual students who give prepared speeches, like humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, prose, poetry, storytelling, duo interpretation, and original oratory. Other events include domestic and international extemporaneous speaking.

Steinberg herself places highly in her events and is a leader on the team with fellow seniors. Steinberg is the team's president, with help from fellow seniors Brett Virgin-Downey and Kara Kratcha and juniors Paul Lisker, Gabrielle Latchup and Dee Luo.

"The most popular events to compete in are original oratory, Lincoln Douglas debate, and public forum debate," Steinberg said. "It changes from year to year, but this year, we have the most entries in those categories."

Types of debate include public forum, in which teams of two students debate one another, Lincoln-Douglas debate, policy debate, and student congress.

Students' preferences don't always match up with the judges' inclinations of what they want to witness, sometimes making for a shortage of spectators.

"Our judges on the other hand, usually want to judge humorous in-

terpretation because it's, you know, humorous," Steinberg said.

The Clayton community is helpful in providing the debate team with judges for the tournament.

"We get judges from the community: parents, teachers, whoever we can get," Steinberg said. "They are not qualified, they are just community members."

Judges are an integral part of the Clayton Fall Classic, and debate students actively recruit adults to participate in judging. Therefore recruiting judges is simultaneously one of the most important and difficult tasks that the team must engage in.

"It's usually a scramble to find enough judges," Miller said. "We need several hundred, and we get pretty desperate—we call every number in the buzz book, we go door to door, we rope in friends of friends of friends."

Sometimes the competitors feel that the judges are not qualified because they don't always have knowledge of the inner workings of the rules and regulations of the events. But usually a warm body is all that's really needed.

"Some people feel like they aren't qualified, but we insist that understanding English and being literate are the only qualifications that we need," Miller said. "Ultimately, any judge is better than no judge at all. If the competitors can't communi-

cate to you, that is their problem."

The Classic isn't a simple task; it requires hard work to make the two days run smoothly since the schedule is packed with debates and events.

"The team does a lot to prepare," Steinberg said. "We have to schedule several hundred students and judges, make signs, and do seemingly endless other tasks."

Miller finds that organizing the details of the tournament can be vexing.

"The tournament feeds into that OCD part of myself that I try to restrain for the rest of the year," Miller said. "I can be a little obsessive and so that things can remain organized and run smoothly."

Having team members help out, rather than relying on seniors and teachers to make the tournament happen, has been a major plus for the team this year.

"It's really great that we have a nice team that is so eager to help out this year," Steinberg said.

Last year's theme was Lord of the Rings, and the 2008 theme was Dr. Seuss. This year the debate team has another creative theme in store for its participants.

"The tournament can be stressful, but is, on the whole enjoyable," Steinberg said. "Every year we have a theme, and this year's theme is Wizard of Oz, so I am pretty excited for that. Also, I got to pick the colors for the trophies!"

## Safe Place provides refuge for youth

A local Walgreens is taking part in the nationwide Safe Place campaign to provide havens for youths in distress.

**Jackie Leong**  
Managing Editor

You're standing in an aisle in Walgreens when you spy a lone figure a few feet away. You get the feeling that something isn't quite right. Perhaps the young person down the aisle is abused, going through some rough times, or feels like they have no one to talk to. But whatever the cause, they have nowhere to turn.

As of about a month ago, now they do. Recently, the St. Louis area Walgreens stores joined QuikTrip, among others, in participation in what is referred to as "Project Safe Place", a national program from St. Louis-run Youth in Need.

"If a child feels like they don't have a safe place to go, they can come here," Clayton Walgreens assistant manager Stefanie Harris said.

Store employees are trained to recognize and offer aid to what the program refers to as "youth in need", which, according to the organization's website, could be any young person suffering anything from bullying or abuse to simply being lost. Simply put, support is available to any teen that feels like they need help and don't know to whom to turn.

To such youngsters, the yellow Safe Place sticker that all participating businesses and nonprofits sport is intended to signal the availability of immediate help. Inside the stores, employees' ears are primed to recognize the distress signals such as "Can you help me?" or "Is this a Safe Place?"

At the heart of the Safe Place training is a simple idea: get the gist of what's wrong, get them help, but don't pry.

"We're supposed to avoid being critical," Harris said, "and to let them know that they're secure, that no one can get to them."

In the words of the training itself, don't go into the details of the problem.

The other central piece of the program is the St. Louis County Youth Connection Hotline, operative 24 hours a day, which employees are told to call, and to identify themselves as calling from a Safe Place.

This part of the program is of particular service to store employees, who might not have known whom or where to call for help in the past, should they have found a troubled youth.

Harris, who worked in a North County Walgreens a few years ago, recalls an instance in which she found a girl who'd been beaten and raped, but didn't have much to go on regarding what to do. After that experience, she reflects that now having a reliable hotline to call adds comfort and security.

"It looked like someone had beaten [the girl] up and then threw her out in front of my store," Harris said. "She looked like she hadn't eaten in days, and after awhile she finally let us buy her some food. And she didn't want anything to do with the police."

But after getting little or no support from any of the other places that she called for help, Harris was forced to call 911 when the girl began having seizures.

"There was nothing in place at the time," Harris said. "I didn't have any plan. I didn't get cooperation from anyone that I called. So now that we have this number that we can just call, it's very nice."

But the help doesn't stop at the hotline. Once it is confirmed that a Safe Place employee is on the way, the employee must check on the youth and reassure them that someone is coming to help. When someone does arrive, the training stresses that it is imperative to check for Safe Place identification before letting the youth go and recording the incident.

As of now, Clayton only has two Safe Place participants—the fire station and the Walgreens on Big Bend and Clayton—but don't let this figure deter.

The participants overall in the St. Louis area include its QuikTrips, fire stations and Walgreens, as stated before, but also countless libraries, churches, clinics, YMCAs, and even banks, as well as the scattered Youth in Need establishments.

And so the web of refuge grows in St. Louis, borne by those obliging establishments and businesses—who meanwhile have to pay to enroll in the program—and marked by that bright yellow beacon displayed prominently on the fronts of all participants.

And to someone in need, that sign means something more than just a safe place to rest; it means that someone's watching out for them. They are, as Harris said, "just here to be supportive".

## Turkey Leg contest suits cheerful holiday mood

**Ben Colagiovanni**  
Editor

In many instances, longevity breeds excellence, which is why it's no coincidence that CHS has been in operation for over 100 years now and is home to some of the finest teachers in the state of Missouri. Each time we are recognized for academic excellence, it's a tribute to the teachers, our hardworking educators, who certainly deserve our praise.

But how should we praise them? Recently, the geniuses at DECA have put their heads together and conspired to contrive a whole new way to show teacher appreciation, while generating school spirit and giving back to the St. Louis region.

The latest result of their brainstorming is this year's Inaugural Turkey Leg Contest, which in practice wholly embodies the unique and comical nature of its name. Similar in intent to DECA's annual penny war, which has long served as a model of generosity for the CHS community, the Turkey Leg contest aims for the same spirit of charity while adding an element of humor.

With final exams looming and stress intensifying, the emergence of this quirky turkey humor will be more than welcomed by students and staff alike.

The contest is simple. Photographs of teachers' legs will be on display in the Commons from Nov. 17 to Nov. 22. CHS students and employees will be able to vote on which one of the photographs represents the perfect pair of turkey legs by placing money in a jar underneath the picture of their choice.

While a donation of any amount will be accepted and appreciated while the polls are open, for an additional 50 cents, voters can guess who all of the teachers are.

Of paramount importance, all of the money raised will be donated to a local food pantry to support its efforts at serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the needy, but

there are also residual benefits for both the candidates and the voters. The teacher whose legs raise the most money will be bequeathed a Butterball turkey and will be crowned with a special hat complete with flappable turkey wings, which he or she will have the honor of wearing on Nov. 23, thereby publicly and prominently flaunting his or her victory.

The voters who successfully guess the identities of the teachers will be placed in a raffle. Four names will be selected and the lucky few will receive free admission to every CHS basketball game this season.

Like all incredible innovations, the process to bring this contest to life took time and dedication, beginning with the inspiration for the fundraiser, the brainchild of junior Ali Planells, senior Erin Bax, and CHS' DECA director Marci Boland. How then did the DECA members manage to get these teachers to bravely strut their stuff in front of the camera?

"To recruit the teachers we asked our friends which teachers they thought would want to get involved," Planells said. "Then for a week we went around asking these teachers if they wanted to participate. Some of them were reluctant to agree at the beginning but once we explained to them that it was for a really good cause and that it was all going on here at school they said 'Sure.' The teachers were really good sports, and they all thought it was extremely funny."

The photos were taken during a teacher work day in October and now DECA has to energize CHS to vote, once, twice, as often as desired.

"We never know how much students are going to embrace a project or not embrace it," Boland said. "Hopefully this will be a great project and will raise a lot of money."

From every angle the contest is appealing. Thanksgiving is a neutral holiday, in the sense that it is celebrated by all Americans of varying religious backgrounds; the contest, therefore, provides a unique opportunity for all



DECA member Erin Bax and DECA sponsor Marci Boland man the booth for the Turkey Leg contest, which raised money to provide Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless.

students to give back to their community and simultaneously interact with their teachers.

And as Boland alludes to, it's all for a worthy cause. "Ultimately, this project is all about helping homeless people have a Thanksgiving dinner," Boland said. "We're not even taking money out of the earnings to buy the winning teacher's Butterball turkey. That's coming out of our DECA funds. Every penny collected will be spent on food."

While DECA is very much hoping for a good voter turnout from the time the polls open on Nov. 17 to when they close on Nov. 22, its primary goal during this time of giving thanks is to make giving back more enjoy-

able and more meaningful for all.

"More than anything else I hope that people laugh," Boland said. "I hope they laugh when they look at all the teachers' legs and try to guess who is who. Just laughing and thinking that it is funny will hopefully be something that everyone gets out of the experience."

But on a serious note, thanks to the creativity of DECA in implementing this contest, the service of the teachers in exposing their legs for a worthy cause, and hopefully the generosity of all who vote, Thanksgiving will be a day free of hunger and full of joy for those in need.

Go to [www.chsglobe.com](http://www.chsglobe.com) for photos of the contestants.



# New engineering teacher brings experience, enthusiasm

Zach Praiss  
Community Editor

For Robert Tonnies, Nov. 1, 2010, was a big day – his first day of school at Clayton.

For the past two weeks, Tonnies has been adapting to life at CHS.

However, he is not a confused or shy new student lost wondering in the halls, but rather, the new engineering teacher who was recently hired by the School District of Clayton following Gregory Kramer's resignation.

In the aftermath of Kramer's resignation on Sept. 29, the CHS administration struggled in the hiring process with multiple setbacks to find someone with the necessary experience and certification for the several engineering classes.

"The difficulties were a little daunting," Principal Louise Losos said. "It's a very specialized program. So, our first goal was to get someone who had Project Lead The Way (the engineering curriculum) training and if possible teaching experience. Failing that, we wanted someone who had architectural or engineering background preferably with teaching experience, but, if not, we would support them."

During the hiring process, the engineering classes ground to a halt without a teacher trained in the engineering curriculum, becoming merely study halls for students.

"We needed to get those classes back and running because we hit a point where we either needed to get someone in there or cancel the class-

es," Losos said. "The students didn't want to be in a study hall. They signed up for architecture classes, so they really wanted to learn about engineering."

Yet, the hiring process for the new engineering teacher was delayed multiple times as several candidates for the job, who were very close to being hired, backed out of the selection process. In all, more than a dozen people from all different backgrounds of engineering were interviewed for the position. For Tonnies, the job offering was a rare opportunity.

"There are very few pre-engineering programs at high schools," Tonnies said. "In the past 10 years, I haven't seen any openings of that sort anywhere."

Tonnies, an engineer for over 25 years, immediately seized the opportunity to be interviewed for the position. With his experience as both an engineer and also a teacher, Tonnies stood out in the selection process and was soon hired for the job.

"We had other strong experienced candidates, but he was the one who had the teaching experience in combination with his broad array of engineering experience," Losos said.

Ever since his days in high school, Tonnies had always loved math and science. Coming from a line of engineers, Tonnies was destined to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He studied engineering at Washington University in St. Louis and went on to work at McDonnell Douglas for a year and then Monsanto for 25 years.

"It's a good group of students,"

Throughout his career, Tonnies worked in various fields of engineering from working on chemical plants to computer based information technology.

"I've probably never done anything the same for more than a few years in my career," Tonnies said. "I have had a lot of varieties of experiences in my career."

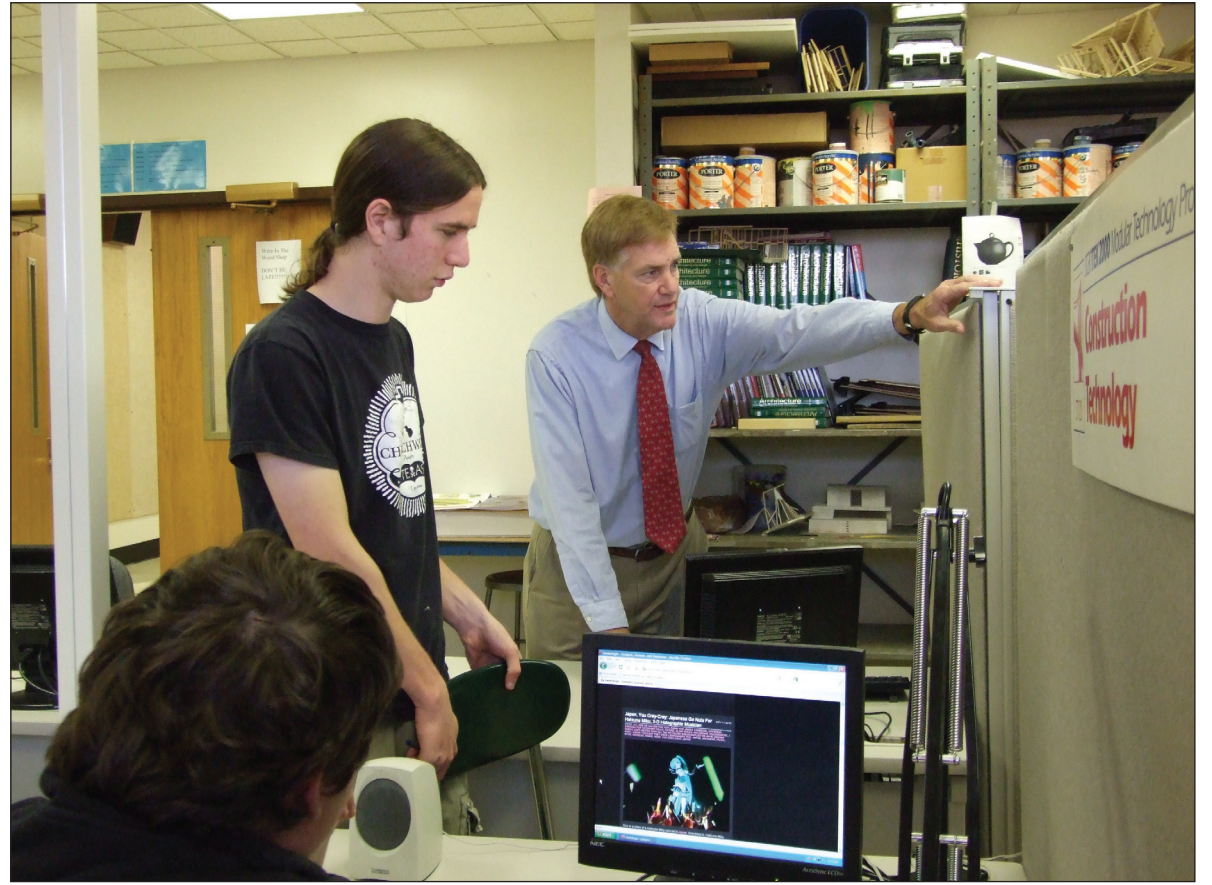
In addition, Tonnies also taught engineering, physics, and a variety of math classes at several high schools including Lafayette High School. So far, Tonnies has had a smooth transition as a new teacher half way through the first semester.

"I have enjoyed it," Tonnies said. "The one thing I have to say is that [the staff at] Clayton High School is one of the best groups of people that I've worked with...All the other teachers, the administrators, the maintenance...everyone has been so helpful."

Tonnies explained how the administration has been very helpful by providing him with time "to get his feet wet" and adapt to the new school environment as well as support through the district's mentoring program for new teachers.

Moreover, Tonnies is thrilled to be teaching his true passion of engineering to high school students who have access to the technology to actually sample what it is like to be an engineer without needing the advanced understanding of mathematics and physics. Tonnies is also becoming acquainted with his new students.

"It's a good group of students,"



Engineering Teacher, Mr. Tonnies, instructs students. He is the current teacher after the resignation of Mr. Kramer.

Tonnies said. "Most of the students are very focused on their work and they seem to have fun too... They are respectful of each other and really get along well."

Nonetheless, in getting to know his students, Tonnies realizes the challenge of addressing each student's individual interests in engineering while maintaining a balance of hands-on and classroom learning.

"I think that's the main challenge getting the mix of the hands-on and

the learning," said Tonnies. "The other thing I've found is that there are hundreds of different areas you can explore in engineering. So, if I have 15 kids in a class, almost every one of those kids has a different interest...So, I think that the real challenge for me is making the class something fun and beneficial for all the students."

Because Tonnies was hired mid-year, the district intends to repost the job after winter break for the

2011-2012 school year. Of course, Tonnies will have the opportunity to apply again for the position.

"I would love to continue teaching at Clayton," Tonnies said. "I'll be putting my hat in the ring after this spring to see where it goes."

In the end though, the administration has been pleased with the recent hiring of Tonnies and resuming of the engineering classes.

"I think his first couple weeks have been very positive and well re-



## Future of snow days under scrutiny

Jake Berstein  
Editor

Though likely not a qualification in searching for a new superintendent, Mary Herrmann brings a unique background to Clayton regarding winter weather.

From Madison, Wis., where the average snowfall is more than twice that of St. Louis, and as a superintendent in the Chicago area, Herrmann is more than familiar with snow.

Students have questioned whether Clayton would see less snow days based on Herrmann's experience in the north.

Upon hearing of the Herrmann's origin, junior Stephanie Avery became frightened that students might lose a day which they love.

"Snow days are much needed breaks in the school year," Avery said. "I hope this doesn't mean the end of them."

Herrmann commented on her background in Madison.

"As a child, I never experienced the snow day," Herrmann said. "We get accustomed to lots and lots of snow, and rarely call a snow day up in the north. Even, in the Chicago area we could get quite a bit of snow without calling or even considering calling a snow day."

However, Herrmann was aware that snow days were called on a different basis in St. Louis and said that "every situation is different."

When determining whether to call a day off, student safety is the number one priority. Herrmann, previously superintendent of a K-8 district, will have to consider differences in transport to school between here and Chicago.

"The big factor is whether kids get to school safely," Herrmann said. "We have to consider student transportation to school. Students walking, and the bus system are all factors we should consider."

Herrmann expressed concern in high school drivers getting to school safely. According to Herrmann, practicing driving in wintry conditions was a central part of learning to drive in Wisconsin. This is not the case in St. Louis, and many students will be driving in icy conditions for the first time this upcoming winter.

In balance with student safety is the problem of missing a valuable opportunity to teach. Snow days also pose a problem for parents who have young children.

"You try to be as objective as possibly when making

a decision," Herrmann said. "Each time you call a snow day you have to ask if it's really necessary. Keeping these things in mind, student safety is always at the top."

Often, the inability for teachers to reach the school is a factor in calling snow days as well.

"In the Chicago suburbs, traffic was always bad anyway," Herrmann said. "With the snow, it might take over two hours for a teacher to get to work, which would lead to students without teachers in the classroom."

In addition to checking the roads, school grounds and forecasts, St. Louis offers an additional step in the process that will be new to Herrmann.

"We have a conference call with all the superintendents in the area at 4:30 in the morning," Herrmann said. "We talk about what we know and our plans. I am learning that this is a very important step in the process of determining a snow day."

Though Clayton has not implemented this, past CHS planners have mentioned the possibility of a late start on snow days. Avery noticed and wondered about this rule listed in the planner.

"It seems like a good idea to push back school instead of keeping it on," Avery said. "It would be much safer to drive to school at 9 a.m. because the streets are normally much clearer."

Herrmann agreed that the late start could be beneficial.

"We used the late start in my other districts," Herrmann said. "It is a little more complicated in some ways, getting the message out, but it definitely has its benefits. I need to talk to others about this possibility and if it is actually seriously considered in the district."

Herrmann expects complaints this year, no matter the call she makes. At Winnetka Public Schools 36, she has received complaints after every single snow day decision.

"Snow days are a tough one," Herrmann said. "There are so many different factors and considerations, and there are some people who are happy with the call and some who are angry. You get used to the pressure and parents are just responding because the call impacts them."

No matter the decision Herrmann will be forced to make this winter, she is prepared for parental criticism.

"I just have to try to think that I am responsible for the safety of all these students and staff, so I am going to do my best and look at all the different factors to make that decision," Herrmann said. ☺

## Panera offers something different

Continued from pg. 1

"There are a lot of people from our school that still abuse the system," Casteel said. "There's a group of guys that goes there for lunch every day and they pay a dollar or something. I'm sure the numbers have gone down, because the managers have been keeping people on their radar and they yelled at them."

However, Casteel has gotten a number of people who abused the system in the past to volunteer since then.

Indeed, one might observe that some degree of social integrity seems to emerge from those who enter the café, though the manner in which it manifests is different for all. In the short time that the experimental nonprofit has been in existence, Barr has experienced it all: those who can't pay now, but come back later to do so; a customer who tipped a homeless volunteer sweeping the storefront without a second thought; those who come in and simply donate.

Others, including Casteel, also load their cars with the extra bread that the café doesn't use and give it to those in need.

Though the balance of those who pay and those who

can't is one part of the café, the offshoot product can't be forgotten.

As was announced from the beginning, the proceeds from the café will go towards an at-risk teen program, which will start at the beginning of next year. The program will train the teens in life skills, and the training will occur in the café itself.

The program will also be partially be run by a partner organization of the Cares café's choosing, but the name of that partner has not yet been released. In this way, the Cares café is not only sparking community members to help each other—it's giving back directly to the public. In the meantime, the success of the St. Louis café—and the national attention it is enjoying—is sparking the creation of a couple more, one soon to open in Deerborn, Michigan, and another in Portland, Oregon.

Both Barr and Casteel encourage anyone and everyone to help out—all one needs is a little extra time and spirit to volunteer.

"It's a wonderful thing to see the response of the public when they realize they can help someone that same day," Barr said. "This isn't a gimmick. It's a true café."

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# Surge in laptop use powers student success, performance

**Parker Schultz**  
Reporter

High school can seem like a world separate from technology, but new computers are finding ways in, even if students have to bring them themselves.

Educational technologist, David Hoffman, has seen an increase in the number of students who bring their own laptops to school.

"It's more every year," Hoffman said. "If I had to guess, I'd say that one in 10 students have a laptop that they bring in [CHS]."

Hoffman believes that students first began bringing laptops seven years ago, when district teachers were issued their own. Since then, the number of students bringing them has grown. Hoffman estimated that there could be 90 to 120 students that bring their laptops from home on a daily basis.

"In the library there's always some [laptops]," Hoffman said. "Generally at any time of the day there are five or more laptops open and being used."

Administrators can't view student activities on laptops, but Hoffman is not concerned.

"Even though [students] are using our network, it hasn't been a

problem, so I don't really worry about that," Hoffman said.

Hoffman feels that laptops could help raise student grades if implemented throughout the school district.

"There are a lot of studies that show schools that have gone to a one-to-one initiative have students that have improved," Hoffman said. "For example, Maplewood and Richmond Heights from fifth grade on issue every student a Mac laptop, and they have seen

their test scores rise considerably. So that absolutely helps."

The Journal of Technology, Learning, and Assessment (JTLA) held a study in which random students were given laptops in a "laptop immersion program." After compar-

ing the grades from the lap-top-using students to the non-laptop-using students after a year of school, they wrote the following statement:

"Students who did participate in the program tended to earn significantly higher test scores and grades for writing, English-language arts,

mathematics, and overall Grade Point Averages (GPAs)."

One of the students at CHS who brings a laptop is freshman Andy Hodapp. He says he brings his laptop to school because it helps him with his school work.

"I think it's a more effective way

to get work done," Hodapp said. "It's a much cleaner way that using all of that paper."

Hodapp brings his laptop to several of his classes. He is not the only student who does this, Senior Charlie Beard says that last year, he also used his laptop during class.

"I used [the laptop] last year to take notes in biology and history, so I basically used it every day," Beard said.

Beard's teachers were fine with him bringing his computer to

connections.

"Our wireless system needs some upgrades," Hoffman said. "It's starting to be taxed pretty well by all these laptops and iPods that are coming in and getting on, and it kind of gets the band-width eaten up, but we're doing okay so far."

Hoffman hopes that the wireless system will be revamped or replaced within the next few years.

"Our [chief information officer], who is head of technology for the district, is looking for a better system that will allow more users," Hoffman said. "He's checking into that now, so hopefully within a year or two we will have something better."

Until then, students will have to cope with the current connection.

Whether or not the wireless system will be upgraded is an uncertainty. What seems clear to students and teachers alike is that the number of students who bring laptops will continue to increase.

"In ten years if you did this same interview, I think it would be how many students don't have laptops; it would be hardly any," Hoffman said. "It's coming down the road."

The complete report by the JTLA can be found at: <http://escholarship.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=jtla>



Sarah O'Brien  
Photo illustration by Dee Luo



Geometry teacher Jane Glenn stands next to the attention-grabbing bulletin board she created.

## Newly created math bulletin boards bring students together

Optical illusions and brain teasers displayed on the math bulletin boards give students reason to strike up conversation and debate.

**Arya Yadama**  
Reporter

At CHS there are many different methods of bringing the school together. There's spirit week, team sports and Big Sis and Little sis to help make the school into a closely-knit community.

However, we normally do not expect something as simple as a bulletin board to help bring the school together.

The bulletin board outside of the math rooms next to math teacher Jane Glenn's room is covered with puzzles, riddles and pieces of exemplary math projects.

Before and after school, even between classes, people gather near the bulletin board for a quick brainteaser before class. Glenn, a freshmen geometry teacher, is the "queen" of this bulletin board.

"The bulletin board was originally set up to display the work that we do in the math wing and to give kids a quick brain teaser before class," Glenn said. "I've felt a lot of good feedback. I've seen everyone from students to teachers to custodians to substitute teachers just taking a little time to try to figure out one of the riddles."

Sophomore Emma Riley has really enjoyed the bulletin board and what it has brought to the school.

"The bulletin board gives people the chance to step out of their busy school schedules and take a moment to relax, to try to solve a problem with someone you might not really know," Riley said. "It allows them to make friends with others who are doing the same thing."

Not only has this bulletin board acted as a place where

students can take refuge from their demanding classes, but it has also proven to be a communication device that has helped bring some students closer together.

"I actually got to talk to other people about how they figured out how the pictures worked," freshman Abbie Kohmetscher said.

The students of CHS are talking to people they wouldn't otherwise talk to because of this simple bulletin board. Riley actually met someone in the process of figuring out a riddle.

"I met a really nice guy there," Riley said. "We were trying to perform the same verbal-visual puzzle thing.

We both started laughing every time the other one screwed up. I didn't get his name, but it was nice to make friends with a complete stranger."

Glenn is pleased by the intellectual and friendly interaction that goes on by her bulletin board.

"The bulletin has brought some degree of friendliness between people, sometimes you'll see a custodian and a student just trying to figure out a riddle together," Glenn said.

Whenever you pass by the bulletin in the Math wing, you may just figure out a riddle that no one else has a clue about.

"The bulletin board enables people to think and learn, and it also gives them opportunities to interact with other people who they don't know," Riley said.

Glenn, certainly feels that her hard work is worth it as well.

"Whenever I see someone looking at our bulletin board, it makes me feel good about putting that extra time into maybe lightening someone's day or just plain making them think." ☺



JSU meets at Starbucks every Tuesday, giving students an opportunity to discuss topics openly with their peers.

## JSU an open, enriching club

**Aidan Hayward**  
Reporter

Although the Jewish Student Union sounds like a club reserved only for Jewish people, it is much more than meets the eye.

JSU is in fact open to anyone who wants to join, and is a different experience than one would think.

"At JSU we look at different topics, such as drugs and alcohol," senior Pheobe Raileanu said. "But we look at them from a Jewish perspective. We then discuss them based on our own experiences."

Rabbi Michael Rovinsky is a leader of the organization.

"The main goal of JSU is to reach out to teenagers and address the issues that they face as teens," Rovinsky said.

"We do this from a Jewish perspective, so that that they see that it is meaningful and applicable to them in the 21st century. We'll talk about subjects such as eating disorders, stress management, pre-marital sex, recreational drug use, and relationships."

For JSU, the students pick the topics. The topics aren't religion-based, they can be anything the students want to discuss.

"The beauty of non religion-based topics is that regardless of what religion you are, you can participate and grow from the experience, Rovinsky said."

Rovinsky speaks highly of JSU, encouraging students at CHS to join.

"Some of the benefits of coming to JSU include emotional and intellectual growth, as well as awesome friends," Rovinsky said. "And who could forget the free drinks? All members of JSU get free Starbucks, on me."

But JSU isn't all about discussion and coffee. While mostly based around hot teen topics, members of JSU find time to do other recreational activities.

"One time for a Jewish holiday we built a Sukkot," sophomore David Iken said. "A Sukkot is a little hut made out of graham crackers. While this was done for one holiday, we do different things each time, as well as carry on group conversations about issues concerning teens."

First time JSU attendees show great enthusiasm.

"It's very welcoming here, and the free Starbucks is the bomb," sophomore Reed Rosenblum said. "I am most likely planning on returning. The atmosphere is friendly, and I feel at home with all my friends."

JSU meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Starbucks on Wydown. It is open to anyone who wants to join. ☺

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# Education & Technology

{ By Shuyang Li and Noah Eby }

Back in the 1990s, when CHS Educational Technologist David Hoffman became a tech specialist at Captain Elementary, there were 15 computers – Apple IIs – in the entire school. There was no network, no Internet, no email. When he came to the high school nine years ago, teachers didn't have laptops, there were no library computer labs and no student had a laptop. Even five years ago, when Devin Davis became CIO for the School District, there were no universal logins and there was no unified wireless – the average age of a computer was an ancient seven years old. Times have changed.

## A Changing Environment

"I think the thing that changed it the most was when we gave teachers laptops so they could do their work, and some were resistant then, but I don't think you could pry one out of their hands now," Hoffman said. "They became so familiar with how it could help their job that its use just exploded. And now, ask any student or teacher to do work without technology, they'd think you were crazy."

Math teacher Barbara Dobbert is likely one of those people. When she graduated college in 1990, she paid her younger sister \$5 a piece to type up her cover letters because she was so computer-phobic. Now, doing everything from organizing files, saving Smart files as PDFs, maintaining her website and using WebQuest, she "feel[s] like she can't teach without it." She even helps lead a teacher training program called TWITL (Technology Works in Teaching and Learning).

It has not been an easy transition from the now seemingly archaic age before technology was widespread. Davis worked hard to install the immense amount of infrastructure necessary to support the District's needs, and the efforts have paid off. Clayton now possesses an amazing amount of technological potential that can be integrated into the classroom.

"We are far beyond the scope of a lot of school districts as far as our capability and what we have available to us," Davis said. "How we leverage that is kind of a case-by-case situation. There are some people who are really taking it to the next level, and there are others who are not. But as far as what we have available to us, we can do anything we want to do. If somebody told me tomorrow that they want to have an open video confer-

ence with Timbuktu, we can make that happen – and not everybody can say that."

## The Student Perspective

Student opinion is relatively split on the increasing prevalence of technology in the classroom. Some herald it as beneficial and efficient, while others deride the implementation as extravagant and ineffectual. Tellingly, many students take both sides – seeing technology as being inherently useful but mismanaged at Clayton.

"My experience with technology over the years at CHS, while not extensive, has been a positive one," senior Colleen Layton said. "Primarily, the ability to access databases has probably proved to be the most beneficial.

However, even in the classroom, I would not say there has been any technological advances that have had a positive or negative impact on my learning."

This opinion is echoed by others like junior Oscar Martinez, who believes that the hardware and software quality is good but that little is being done to ensure that students and teachers are capable of using the given technology.

"Generally, my experience with CHS technology has been good," Martinez said. "However, occasionally the network is unreliable and some teachers can't use the technology they have available."

Though junior Ben Kass agrees with Martinez that the technology is quite nice, he said that it is often not used to its full potential.

"Nonetheless, a lot of the technology is effectively useless," Kass said. "So many teachers don't use Smart Boards, and computers are replaced too frequently."

A large factor in the perceived inability of students to make full use of technology is the lack of education thereof. Beyond library catalog instruction, Kass said education in the usage of other programs is scarce.

"The librarians throughout the system make sure you know how to find books using the library system," Kass said. "The school expects you to know how to use technology; once you know it they don't go back to teach you again."

Senior Ian Miller also said that he feels that the school takes little time to ensure that students are well-educated in software usage.

"If somebody told me tomorrow that they want to have an open video conference with Timbuktu, we can make that happen – and not everybody can say that."

Devin Davis, CIO

"I haven't received much instruction on the school's technology," Miller said. "The only instruction I can remember is typing classes in the fourth and sixth grades, as well as training for the library's online database sometime early on in high school."

Though some may feel student education in regards to technology is lacking, teachers implementing Smart Boards, document cameras and other advances can be very beneficial in certain subjects.

"I think it's a really nice how Mr. Rice puts up all the files we need online," Holland, who takes AP Physics, said. "The technology helps with labs and obtaining really accurate results from experiments."

Some technologies, especially the Smart Board, have generated significant debate amongst students. A recent Globe survey found that just over 30 percent of CHS students do not find the Smart Board to be a valuable teaching tool.

"Why spend thousands of dollars on a tool that only gives the appearance that more learning is taking place?" Layton said. "I have learned the most in classes taught by teachers that use very little technology.... In most of my classes, a Smart Board has proved to be little more than an overhead that you can touch."

## Training, Training, Training

As hard as Hoffman and Cathleen Fogarty – the other Educational Technologist at CHS – have tried, efforts to train teachers have run into several issues. Nevertheless, technological competence is on the rise and is likely to continue to expand as more educational efforts develop. Hoffman said requests for training have gone up, especially since the implementation of a Smart Board in almost every classroom has given teachers who move around a level of consistency.

A significant component of the training has been generating awareness so teachers know the options available to them and the different ways in which technology can be an instructional tool.

"There's a whole bunch of stuff that little cadres of teachers are doing really cool things with, and I don't think it necessarily needs to be 'You have to do this, I need to see you doing five things in your classroom by

the end of the year,' but I think we need to do a really good job of making sure teachers are exposed to what's available out there," Math Department chair David Kohmetscher said. "We're fairly rich as a district in respect to resources if you need them or want them... and it would be a shame to have that sitting in a room and have that teacher never been exposed to how best to use it."

The primary method of training has been a small group and individual approach undertaken by groups like TWITL. TWITL meets four times a year and has two levels, beginning and advanced. They focus on getting technology operational and learning the basics for beginners and more complicated integration techniques, such as their next topic, the iPad, for more advanced members. TWITL also offers follow-up, one-on-one opportunities that can help teachers maintain the techniques they learn.

"It can be very intimidating, so if you've got not only the resources and the materials but that human component that can actually help you facilitate that, I think that's the key piece of our success," Dobbert said.

Though this smaller-scale instruction has been used the most, Davis said he would like to see more auditorium-style teaching where teachers or students could take classes on different technological topics during their free time.

"That's a pretty big cultural leap for us – to have people available to just do training," Davis said. "But it's woefully needed. Honestly, teachers come to me every day, and they can't even keep up with the new version of Office when it comes out because we don't make time to do that kind of thing. We handle it one-on-one, but then you're reacting to the need, you're not helping people expand their capability."

One of the issues in trying to train teachers is that the role of the educational technologist has been changed from its intended purpose of helping train teachers to integrate technology into their classes to running tech support for the high school. Hoffman said that a third to a half of what he and Fogarty do is solve technical issues for teachers.

"I think it would be helpful to have a full-time technician here," Hoffman said. "[Cathleen] Fogarty and I are both certified teachers – we're not technician-trained, we're curriculum-trained. So it would be a big help to us to be able to do more professional development and curriculum work if we had a person in the building who was here to do tech support."

That isn't to say they don't do any training – far from it. Lunch sessions, before and after school workshops and half-day sessions are offered all the time. But teachers find it very difficult to make time for technology on top of their classwork and other duties.

"I'm excited about technology, in general," said Spanish teacher Teresa Schafer, who has attended many summer workshops. "I just wish there would be more time, more hours in the day. In justice to the District, they provide a lot of workshops. Unfortunately, most of those workshops, in my opinion, I can only take them over the summer. During the school year I just don't have the time, because for me to attend a workshop is to leave you guys with a substitute. We never have free time. We call them 'free periods,' they're not free – they're prep periods."

## For Better or For Worse

History teacher Sam Harned could be considered a technological rebel. No Smart Board or document camera will be found in his room – a chalkboard and over-

## Behind the Scenes

Smart Boards and computers aren't the only way technology is being utilized at CHS. Teachers use many tools that most students never get a chance to see.



**Aesop:** An automated service that calls substitutes when a teacher is sick. Teachers can ask for certain subs and prioritize by a substitute's academic background.



**Data Warehouse:** A database allowing teachers to access student information, including grades, ACT scores, attendance, MAP scores, race, ethnicity, gender, residence type, etc. to better address a student's needs.



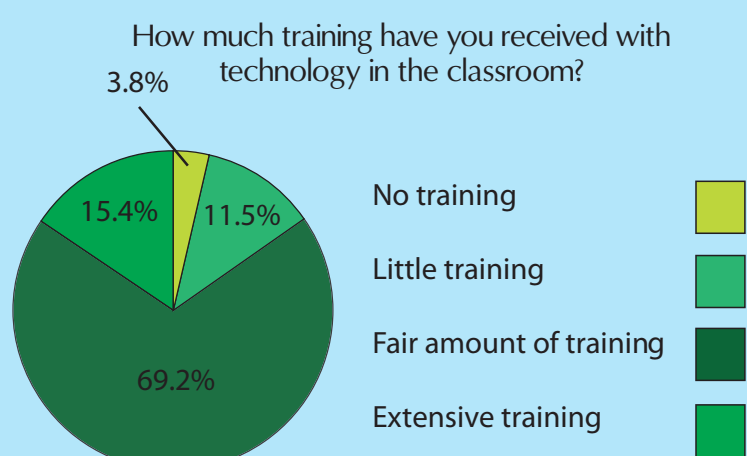
**All of E:** A program that manages teachers' professional development and their continuing education goals.



**Google Apps:** A free online tool for students and staff, accessible through the District website, that provides threaded blogging, document, video, mail, calendar and other services.

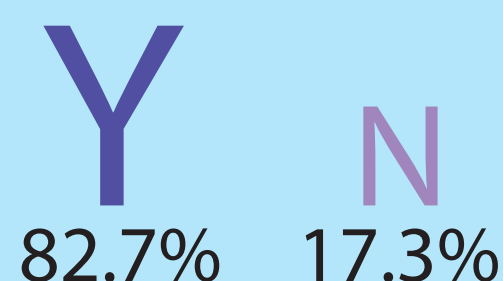
## {the results}

### Teachers\*

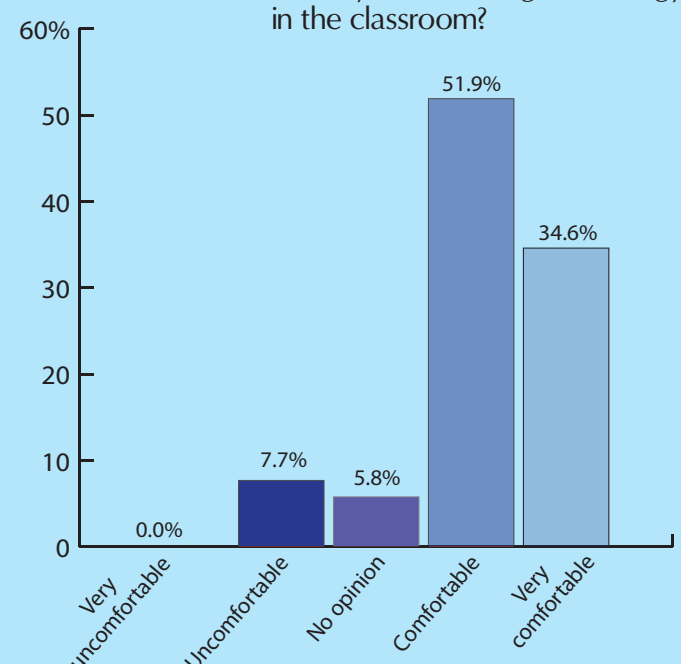


\*Based on a survey of 52 CHS teachers

Would you like to receive more training with technology in the classroom?



How comfortable are you with using technology in the classroom?



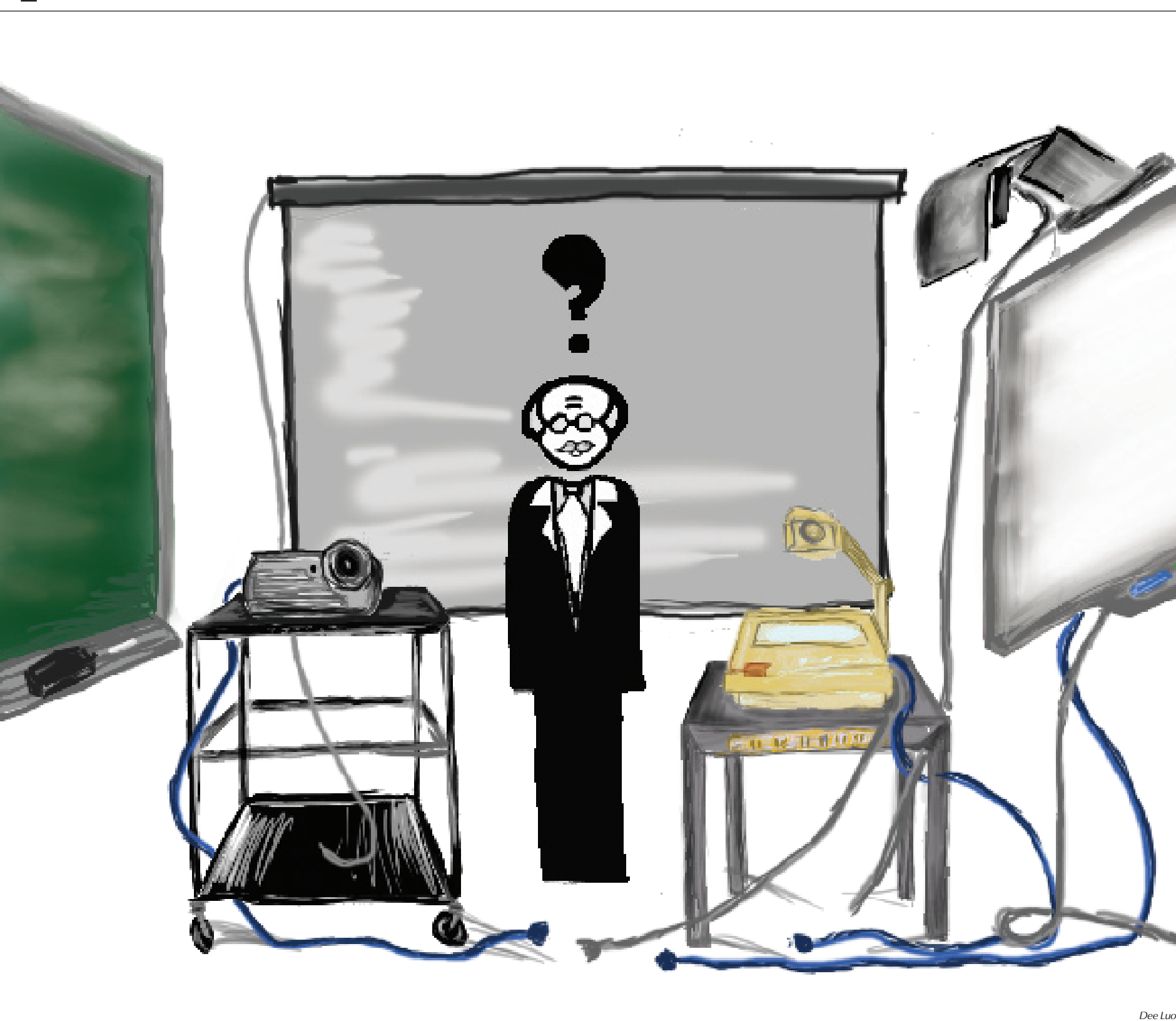
### Students\*

Is the Smart Board



\*Based on a survey of 96 CHS students





Dee Luo

and projector are his main tools. "I don't think it fits my teaching style, really," Harned said. "I don't know that it's necessarily better, it's just different. So if it's not going to be better, I'm not sure why I would do it. A lot of times it just seems like a different way of doing things."

Although he emphasized that he has no problems with the efforts of the educational technologists, Harned said he fears the District is running under certain assumptions, namely that adding technology makes teaching and learning inherently better. He also said that he is worried that the implementation of a Smart Board and other tools into every classroom could threaten the "multiplicity of [teaching] approaches" at the high school.

"When I [to teach Wash. U.], it's a chalkboard, an overhead projector as much as technology you want," Harned said. "They actually don't have a Smart Board, but they have all this other stuff you can do. What you're saying with that – what I've always sensed from them is that [they] don't care what you're doing as long as you're comfortable with it and thus it's effective.... When you start erasing chalkboards and you start taking overheads away and you spend \$2000 on a Smart Board, what you're kind of doing is, 'This is what you should be doing.'"

In addition, he said that he feels a certain pressure to begin to use technology, and that it has taken on an almost religious quality in that "it's like there's no other position besides the 'it's good' position." Harned was not alone in his worries. Schafer said that she fears that technology may come to dominate the curriculum instead of simply enhancing it, though she doesn't think Clayton is heading in that direction, and that it may push other priorities out of the way. "We can't keep adding, adding, adding – something's got to go in order to add," Schafer said. "And that's why I'm concerned – what do I need to let go, especially in my AP courses – which right now are two of my classes? Our objectives

are very defined, and I can use technology to enhance my lessons. However, if I keep adding things, I need to let go."

Yet there is undoubtedly some good that can come from technology. Amy Degenfelder, an English teacher who is new to Clayton this year, said that she regularly uses a program called Schoology – which is "kind of like the school Facebook" – to enrich her classes.

"I'm using it for discussion, so each kid has their own profile, and they can add to their profile and put up pictures," Degenfelder said. "My World Lit. kids are doing a blog on their independent reading books, and I used it in my juniors' class as a discussion board, so you're posting on the night's reading, doing feedback that way, instead of necessarily doing it in class."

The Smart Board has also become a useful tool for many teachers, as it can be used like a traditional whiteboard

but with much greater capabilities.

"[The Smart Board] has changed everything," physics teacher Gabe de la Paz said. "I mean, the problem with a whiteboard is if you're going to do something where it's a sequence of events, it's kind of hard to do that on a chalkboard or a white board where you're just erasing. Your diagrams are more clear when you use a Smart Board because you can clone things and move things around. And then as far as when kids are absent, it's a lot easier to get them a copy of the notes for that day, or when kids have IBs or 504s and they need notes, it's a lot easier."

Dobbert, too, said that she finds the Smart Board very useful for illustrating mathematical concepts such as 3D shapes.

As technology continues to make its way into education, Hoffman said that it is important to remember why it is being used as a way to improve teaching and learning.

"It's important to think about the brain research about learning that shows that things can be better with technology," Hoffman said. "To use it just for technology's sake is

a mistake. You have to know why you're using it, why you have it in your classroom and what it does better than what you can do without it, and if you can do something better without it, then that's the way to do it."

### The Future

Just as it would have been hard to imagine students carrying around iPads ten years ago, it is equally difficult to predict what advances will be coming to education in the future.

On a smaller scale, Davis said the wireless will be upgraded soon, over winter break at the earliest, from Wireless-G to Wireless-N, which should improve the speed of a system that is currently bogged down by student cell phones. In addition, teacher email is likely to be switched from First Class to Gmail, and a print server will be installed to prevent single jobs from holding up printers.

In the distant future, more drastic changes are likely. Hoffman suggested that each student will eventually have their own personal mobile device – something like an iPad – that will carry a student's papers, notes and even textbooks. In addition, he said he thinks the "primitive technology" of the Smart Board will be improved.

"Eventually, you're going to see a board in the classroom with a computer built in," Hoffman said. "There's no projector on it, there's no computer – it'll be the computer and the projector and everything in one."

Davis said that the District will likely consider adopting OpenOffice, a free version of Office available online, in 2012. However, he thinks Microsoft Office and the like will eventually be made obsolete by online programs such as Google Apps.

"I think everything is going to be on the cloud here eventually, and you're already seeing that movement," Davis said. "So in five years, [computers] may just be a way to get at the Internet and all those applications [will be there]."

In the end, though, Davis said that the unpredictability of technology and where it will head in the coming years makes his job one of constant preparation.

"I'm just trying to prepare for whatever comes down the road," Davis said. "Just making sure that we have the infrastructure so that whatever that thing is, and none of us even knows, we'll be able to handle it." ☺

## The 1s and 0s

2.3

Ratio of computers (student desktops) to students at CHS. The ratio for the entire district is 2.44.

4,5

Number of years after which teacher laptops and student desktops, respectively, are sold to a recycler and replaced

6

Number of teachers who said they didn't know how to use a Smart Board this year.

25

Number of teachers who indicated in a survey last year they had no idea how to use a Smart Board.

\$43

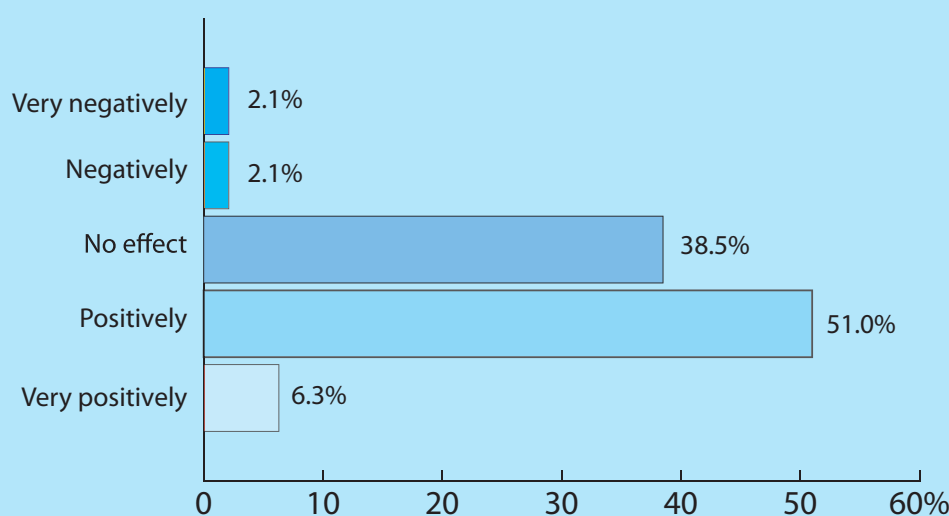
Cost, per machine, for the District to purchase Microsoft Office. The package usually runs \$250.

\$231,884

Amount of the \$500,000 capital expenditure budget spent to date, mainly on replacing computers over the summer and new equipment for Prop S.

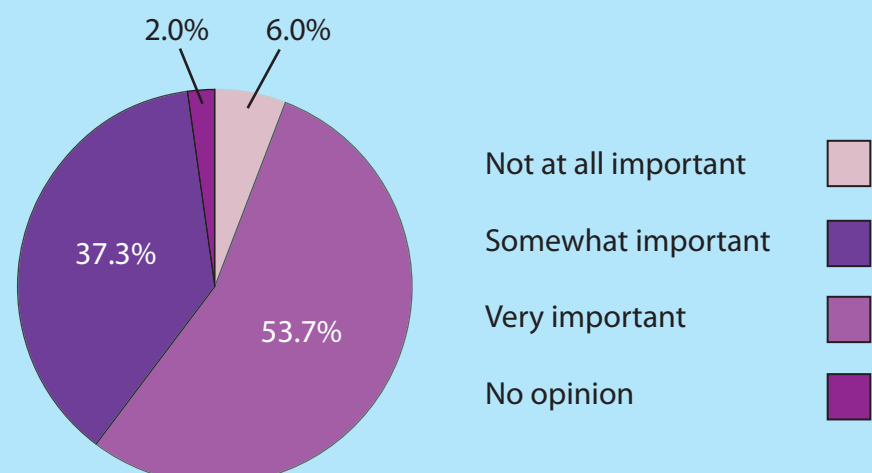
is a valuable teaching tool?

How does the Smart Board affect your learning?



N 31.2%

How important is technology in the classroom with respect to the quality of teaching and learning?





# Conflict minerals fuel violence in eastern Congo

Minerals commonly used in electronic devices, including cell phones, finance armed militia groups, continuing the long-term conflict that has plagued Congolese mining areas.

Jocelyn Lee  
World Editor

Tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold. These four minerals are components of all cell phones, as well as nearly all computers, televisions, and other electronic devices. They make your phone vibrate, your laptop power on. However, according to the Enough Project, an organization that works to end genocide and war crimes, they are also the link between the ordinary American consumer and violence in the Congo. For this reason, the minerals are referred to as "conflict minerals."

The minerals, called the "3Ts and gold" by Enough, are factors behind a conflict in the eastern Congo that has been continuing for over a decade. The conflict has resulted in over 5 million civilian deaths and an estimated 45 thousand deaths per month, according to the International Rescue Committee.

The Enough Project's campaign called RAISE Hope for Congo strives to promote awareness of the conflict and advocate the empowerment of women and girls in the Congo. It works to educate the public, in part by collaborating with celebrities like Ryan Gosling and Ken Baumann. One of its main focuses is creating awareness of the use of conflict minerals in common electronic devices.

The war in the Congo is rooted in the end of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, a neighboring country, according to field manager John Bagwell of the Enough Project.

"There was a power-flip, and the group that was perpetrating the genocide and killing all of the people in that period of time was kicked out of power," Bagwell said. "Many of the people that were committing the atrocities and doing the murdering in Rwanda fled next door into the Congo. So that really was the basis for how armed groups started to come in. They had experience

and knowledge about how to organize and what it means to control people through fear and terror."

Prior to the arrival of the Rwandan groups in the Congo, armed militia groups existed, but had a smaller presence. Bagwell said it was primarily a group called the FDLR from Rwanda that increased the violence that has continued from the late nineties through today.

Due to weak government and corruption within the Congolese army, armed groups are able to gain control of large areas.

"Essentially what you have is a situation where it's just like the Wild West — it's like the Mafia or something," Bagwell said. "There is no rule of law, there are no consequences for raping and killing, there are no effective structures in place to hold people accountable. So it just turns into every group for itself, and that's really led to what we see now."

Armed groups know that regions with major mining sites mean profit because of the multi-million dollar trade surrounding conflict minerals for electronics. As a result, militia groups target mining areas and the civilians living around them. They instill fear in the people through murder and rape, and make large profits by taxing the mining areas and trading minerals.

However, the issue of conflict minerals is not an extremely well known one.

"I think it's a fairly new realization that the connect is so direct between the minerals that end up in cell phones and laptops and other electronics, and the war that's going on and the financing of arms groups," Bagwell

said. "You look back on other big campaigns to change countries and dynamics and to stop wars, and it takes a long time for something that doesn't directly affect the American people to catch on and make the connection. The blood diamond campaign took many, many years to really catch on and to be something that people had heard about and knew about and cared about."

According to the Enough Project, the raw minerals are smuggled out of Africa and sent to Asian countries to be refined. They are mixed with minerals from other places, making it somewhat difficult for the minerals financing the conflict in Congo to be traced. However, Bagwell said that it is likely that most electronic devices contain conflict minerals.

In addition, these minerals are found in other industries such as the automotive industry, which uses large quantities of tantalum.

"We're trying to get other industries on board, as well, so we can clean up the whole supply chain, not just for one product, but across the line, because our goal is to stop the violence," Bagwell said.

In July, legislation was passed requiring U.S. companies to annually report to the Securities and Exchange Commission if certain minerals they use originated in the Congo or nearby countries. Companies must also report how they are preventing purchases that finance armed groups in the Congo and surrounding areas, according to the New York Times.

The legislation is the first significant step forward for

activists such as those from Enough. However, Bagwell said that a way to certify products is still necessary.

"What we would like to see is a system where you are actually certifying that certain minerals coming out of Congo are not contributing to conflict," Bagwell said. "You can buy conflict-free diamonds, you can buy organic food that you know is organic, because it's been certified with that label. The legislation gets a good start on the tracing and the auditing for companies that use these minerals, but what it doesn't do is that big third step, which is set up a certification system."

In order to move toward that goal, Enough encourages people, especially young adults, to speak out against the use of conflict minerals, whether it is with a petition, protest, or letter to the government. Bagwell said that young people hold a great deal of power when it comes to creating change because electronics companies often market to teenagers the most.

Schools, as a whole, are also highly important in the movement toward conflict-free products.

"Right now it's about voicing support for the campaign, for the intent, and for the goals that we're trying to accomplish," Bagwell said. "By doing that with an institutional voice, with a school-wide voice, it will have a much bigger impact than just individual consumers because of the big contracts and the relationships they hold with these companies that they purchase from."

For the Enough Project, turning awareness into motivation for action is an important step.

"Many times when we talk about these issues we get so caught up in the practical arguments and everything, and we lose sight of the humanity and the moral aspect that people are dying everyday as a result of this conflict," Bagwell said. "We as human beings, no matter where conflict occurs, have a responsibility to do what we can." 🌍

"There is no rule of law, there are no consequences for raping and killing, there are no effective structures in place to hold people accountable. So it turns into every group for itself, and that's really led to what we see now."

John Bagwell  
Enough Project  
field manager

## News Briefs *What you need to know.*

Recently implemented full body scans and pat-downs at airport security checkpoints have stirred up controversy.

In a lame-duck Senate, Obama pushed for a new arms control treaty with Russia, but faced G.O.P. opposition.

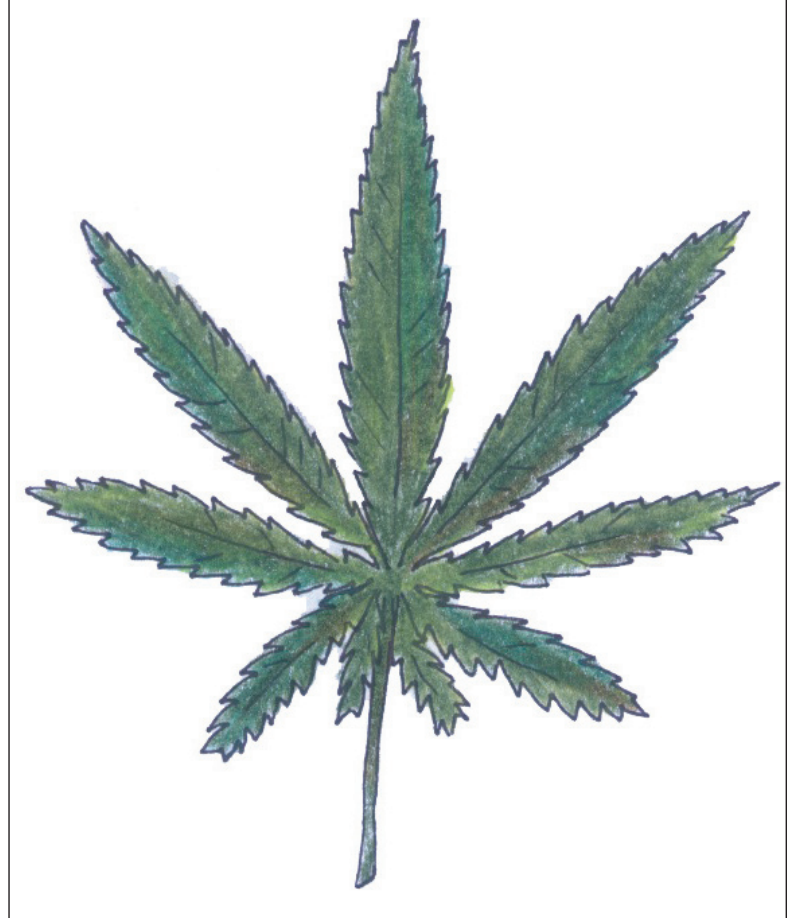
Facing great debt and pressure from European Union officials, Ireland is considering a bailout.

Anti-U.N. protests erupted in Haiti following a cholera outbreak.

It was announced that Britain's Prince William is to marry long-time girlfriend Kate Middleton.

Political activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi was released after 15 years of house arrest in Myanmar.

In a Namibian airport, a suspicious package meant to test security was found among luggage for an Air Berlin flight. The incident alarmed German security officials.



Helen Wiley

## CA voters fail to pass proposition that would legalize marijuana

Paul Kieffer  
Reporter

The 2010 ballots were filled with new ideas and bills to be passed, but none was as progressive as legalizing marijuana. This new idea appeared on the ballot in California this fall. Although it failed to pass, it came very close winning 46 percent of the votes in California.

"I believe that California Proposition 19 should have passed," California resident William Kieffer said. "There are studies that show that marijuana is not as harmful as alcohol which is legal in the United States."

It is proven by scientists that marijuana is less harmful than most drugs including alcohol. It is also less addictive than other drugs like alcohol and nicotine. It also is proven that marijuana is a gateway drug. If it were legalized and was no longer sold by the same people who sell harder drugs, then it no longer has that aspect. If marijuana was no longer a gateway drug, it could get many people out of drug problems.

"I believe that potentially legalizing marijuana could be a very good

thing if the government put regulations on it," sophomore Graham Fiorello said. "Right now marijuana leads to a lot of gang violence and drug problems that are useless and don't need to happen. This is why legalizing marijuana could be very effective."

There is no guarantee that gang violence would be stopped completely, but problems over marijuana are useless and can be stopped. If legalized, the government could put regulations on marijuana that they cannot when it is just floating around.

There is enough marijuana being sold that legalizing it or would not increase or decrease numbers, but it could help the condition of the marijuana that is being sold.

"Economic impact is also a major issue," Kieffer said. "If we legalize marijuana we can tax it. This would make money for the government."

The government needs money so it is very important for the government to be able to tax products. If marijuana was legalized then we could tax it. Very simply marijuana can be a good thing for our society if we let it be. 🌍

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The varsity football team was able to unite after a disappointing season to be the first team in five years to make the playoffs, ending their amazing playoff run with an 8-4 record for the season.

## Varsity Hounds' strong season cut short in run for state title

Jonathon Knohl  
Reporter

The Clayton Varsity football teams run for a state championship sadly came to an end on Nov. 8. The team's final record was 8-4.

"Part of the reason why we had such a successful season was because after last year's season we were all motivated and worked very hard over the off season to prevent another 2009 season," Senior Captain Kameron Stewart said. "Although we did not make it as far as we had hoped, people had us counted out before districts and we showed them wrong. We fought until the whistle and that's all you can ask for."

The Hounds had the best season in years and hope to build off its success in the future. They started off the season with a victory against Lutheran North. Following that they lost two games to St. Francis Borgia and Affton. To the team those two losses were unacceptable, driving them to work even harder. After the two back to back losses the Hounds came together and bounced back with a 5 game winning streak.

"Being the underdogs and with everyone believing that we would go 1-9 again this season we really wanted to make a name for ourselves" Junior Kicker Sam Fox said. "We stuck within ourselves and together as a family. Most of all believed in each other and that is what fueled us on our 5 game winning streak."

However, all good things come to an end. The Hounds suffered their worst loss of the season against rival Ladue, with a score of 54-14. The game had a lot on the line; the winner would be crowned the Class 4, District 6 and the Suburban East Conference Champions. Unfortunately nothing went well for the Hounds that night.

With a win over University City the week prior to Ladue the Hounds were 1-1 in districts going into the game against the Mary Institute Country Day School (M.I.C.D.S.) Rams. The Rams were 5-4 going into the match-up while the Hounds were 6-3.

The game was all or nothing. The winner moves on to the playoffs and the losers go home. The Hounds, however, were not ready to pack their things and end the season. Getting on the board early, the Hounds really set the pace of the game. Some big plays by sophomore

Tyler Walker sealed the deal and the Hounds managed to find their way into the playoffs.

"The M.I.C.D.S. game was probably the most important game all year," Junior Wide Receiver Jeremy said. "Some guys made some big plays and that's why we got the W."

The first round of the playoffs for the Hounds was against the District 6 champions, the Vashon Wolverines. The hounds started off the game 17-0 but quickly gave up 2 touchdowns in the fourth quarter bringing the score to 17-14 but with a stop on 4th & 8 in the red zone by Kameron Stewart the victory was sealed. With the victory a trip to sectionals was planned for a rematch against rival Ladue.

On November 8, the hounds looked to upset rival Ladue in the state sectionals at St. Louis University High School. The hounds got off to a great start leading the way for most of the second half but in the last five minutes gave up two touchdowns bringing the score to 14-7. In the second half Ladue found the end-zone once more before the hounds tied the game up 21-21 in the 4th quarter. But Ladue managed to fight hard and win sealing them a spot in the quarter finals.

"The intensity of the Ladue game was crazy," Sophomore Michael Turner said. "I'm happy we made it that far and we played our hearts out. I'm satisfied for the most part"

It was definitely a season to remember. The team finished with an 8-4 record and made it to the playoffs for the first time in five years.

The team was led by offensively by Kameron Stewart, Tyler Walker, and Chase Haslett. Haslett threw for 1,451 yards and 10 touchdowns this season while Stewart had 1,669 all purpose yards. Walker was also an offensive threat.

On the defensive side leading the way were Brad Puricelli, Seth Thornton, Stewart, and Walker. The defense let up an average of 21.5 points per game this season.

Although the team didn't accomplish its ultimate goal to win state, they proved all the doubters wrong. The Hounds were predicted to finish with a losing record and not even make it into the playoffs. The Greyhounds look to build off of this year's great success and look forward to the future. ☺

## Girls' basketball team seeks improvement with new coach

Lauren Friedman  
Reporter

As demanding pre-season workouts led to significant improvement, members of the girls' varsity basketball team are off to a tremendous start to the new season they have been eagerly anticipating.

Most of the team's players are returning after having played on the team for several seasons, but for the freshmen and a few others who tried out, this will be their first year playing on Varsity.

The coaches of the team this year are Head Coach Heath Kent and Assistant Coaches Helen Valli and Patrick Ostapowicz. While Valli and Ostapowicz coached the girls last year, Kent is thrilled to coach the team for the first time, especially after observing so much skill and progress during summer and pre-season practices. Even before the season has officially begun, Kent can already see high potential for success in several members of the team.

"There is a whole list of kids who I can see really stepping up this year and contributing to the team," Kent

said. "As long as the girls are willing to work and earn it, good things will happen."

Returning for her second year on Varsity, Junior Haley Wartman looks forward to what her third season will bring. "I think our team has the potential to do really well this season," Wartman said. "Coach Kent really knows what he is talking about, and I know he will lead us in the right direction."

The devoted team began practicing as early as the summer. A lot of players showed up to summer practices, which is hopefully an indicator of the hard work that the team will put forth throughout the season. For the girls who were able to make the summer and preseason practices, they were helped the players get into shape and prepare for the season.

Senior Ilesha Powell has developed goals for both herself and the team. "My personal goal for this season is to be a strong offensive leader for the team," Powell said. "I am also really hoping that our team will win districts this year."

Junior Allison O'Neal, a returning player this season, has an opti-

mistic outlook on how the team can learn from last year's season.

"All of the returning players are extremely excited to start the season," O'Neal said. "We are all trying to learn from a disappointing season last year to try and make improvements for this season."

With former players having graduated and new players joining the team, the girls are looking forward to bringing their skills together into one team.

Senior Erin Bax is really excited about the girls on the team this year.

"A lot of us have played together in the past and been really successful, so we're hoping we can achieve the same success this year," Bax said. "All of the girls are also more committed than we have been in the past."

Coaches and players have several goals for the season that they will work towards fulfilling.

"My goals for the team are that we continue to improve our levels from week to week and game to game," Kent said. "I hope that as we work together to improve as a team, wins will follow." ☺



Erin Bax (right) and Katherine (left) walk to the next drill. The girls' varsity basketball is hoping to turn around the program through rigorous training and new strategies.

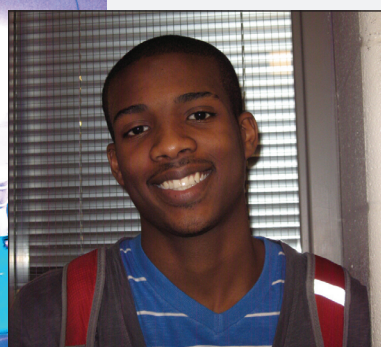
## Winter Sports: Players to Watch For

### Boys' Varsity Basketball



**Senior Christian Thomas**  
"Christian is a four year starter," Head Coach Ryan Luhnig said. "All metro basketball player, and one of the best players in the St. Louis area and we're hoping he has a great senior year."

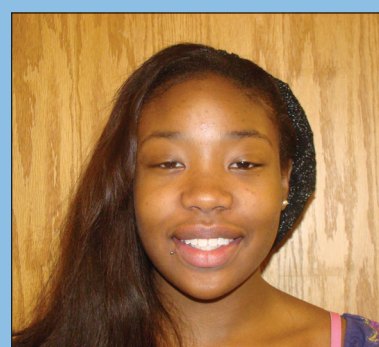
Last season Thomas averaged 20.8 points a game, 9.6 rebounds, and shot nearly 67% from the free throw line.



**Senior Ahmad Smith**  
"Ahmad is one of the most talented unknown player in St. Louis," Luhnig said. "If he's willing to keep his attitude in check he'll be one of the best basketball players in the year."

Last season Smith averaged 8.4 points a games with a 57% shooting percentage and he shot 63% from the free throw line.

### Girls' Varsity Basketball



**Senior Ilesha Powell**  
After being deemed ineligible midway through last year's season, Powell is expected to have a key presence on the court. Head Coach Heath Kent expects Powell to provide the team with "leadership and positive things on the court."

Although her last season was cut short Powell totaled 44 points and led the team in steals with 12.



**Senior Erin Bax**  
Bax is the lone returning starter this season. According to Kent he saw good things from Bax during summer league and he expects her to provide leadership and experience to the team.

Last season Bax averaged 4.4 points a game, 5.5 rebounds a game, and shot about 47% from the free throw line.

### Girls' Varsity Swimming and Diving



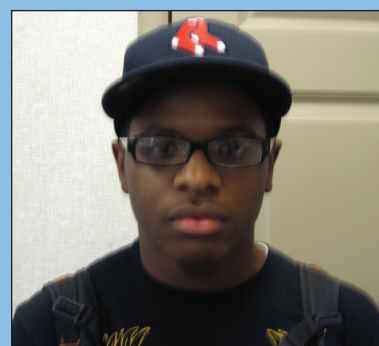
**Junior Katherine Kirchoff**  
Kirchoff has been part of the varsity swim team for the past three years. Her primary race is the Backstroke in the Individual Medley.

Last year Kirchoff placed at the conference meet. Head Coach Katelyn Eustis has high expectations for Kirchoff this season.



**Freshman Danielle Sikora**  
This is Sikora's first year with the CHS team and already Eustis has identified her as an athlete to watch for. Sikora's primary race is expected to be the Breaststroke in the Individual Medley.

### Varsity Wrestling



**Senior Jordan Henry**  
Fourth year wrestler Jordan Henry is expected to have a tremendous season this year. Winning over 30 matches and placing in many tournaments last season, Head Coach Doug Verby expects Henry to continue where he left off last season.

Henry will be in the 140 lb weight class. He has placed in the U. City tournament for the past two years.



**Junior Jefferey Rothenberg**  
Jefferey Rothenberg is returning for his third season with the wrestling team. Last year he won over 30 of his matches. According to Verby, Rothenberg will be a big contender this season.

Rothenberg is in the 285 lb weight class. Last season he placed in three tournaments.



# Bittersweet wrap-up to girls', boys' sports seasons

**Payton Sciaratta**  
Reporter

The outcome has been very good for a majority of the fall sports at Clayton High School during the 2010 season. Many teams have made it a lot farther than they could have imagined, especially compared to last fall.

Specifically, one team that made it farther than they were predicted was they varsity football team. This year has been a huge success in that the hounds have made it to the playoffs, competing all the way to sectionals, which they lost 35-21 on Nov. 8.

"Last year we were 1-9, now we are 8-3," sophomore, Tyler Walker said.

Walker said that people thought the Hounds would go 0-10.

"We had everything to gain, but nothing to lose," Walker said.

They have really proved that the underdogs can take the lead.

Another team that has proved their dedication is the boys' varsity soccer team. Even though the boys had a slow start, they were able to really step it up and make it, not only to districts, but to win the district game as well.

"Overall the season has been up and down," senior Will Hayes said. "We have beaten some good teams, but have played soft against some not so good teams. Mostly because of injuries but specifically for me, it has been hard because I couldn't play in the first 13 games. But as districts started, the team really began to click and we have been having success ever since."

The soccer team was able to win the District Championship against MICDS, as well as the State quarterfinals against Duchesne and still continue to play with high hopes of making it even further.

The Clayton cross country team had some major success this year as well. The girls' team did not manage to make it as far as they would have liked, but the boys' team really stepped it up and made it to state as a team for the first time since 1999.



Courtesy of Derrick Stone

The boys' cross country team, which reached state for the first time since 1999, relaxes after finishing the race.

"This year we changed districts, and it was a lot harder," Sarah Graeber, captain of the girls' varsity cross country team said. "Last year we qualified as a team, but this year only Nicole Indovino qualified."

Even though switching districts meant not qualifying as a team for the girls, it gave the boys an opportunity to really step it up.

They finished in 11th place at state, and many of the runners were able to set a personal record, including Nicole Indovino and Matthew Garrett.

The boys swimming team did not have as much success as the cross country team, as they did not make it to

state, but their great sportsmanship kept them going.

"This year's season boys' swimming season definitely rivals the success of previous seasons," junior, Zach Prais said. "Although we had nobody qualify for state, I believe we had the strongest team that I've seen since I was a freshman."

The boys swimming team also had many new members, which added a whole new aspect to the sport.

"In each event, we were always able to put forth if not two, three strong swimmers," Prais said. "As a result, we were able to win far more meets than previous years as we could consistently pull off not the first place,

but rather, both the second and third places in events. In addition, this year's team truly came together unlike years past. Everyone felt that they were a part of the team and that they played an important role in our successful season."

For the girls' varsity volleyball team, the season did not go over so well.

"The season was pretty rough," Katie Marvel, one of the captains on the team, said. "We didn't win as many games as we would have liked. We were a very close team, but didn't start to 'click' as one unit until the end of the season."

Although the season did not go over so well, the girls are sticking to the sport in hopes of making it even farther next year.

"A few of the girls, including myself, are going to play club volleyball," Marvel said. "So hopefully we will have a more successful season next year."

Much like the varsity volleyball team, the girls' field hockey team didn't make it as far as they would have liked either.

"It started out rough, but by the end we bonded as a team and came out strong," junior, Kate Harrison said.

Many of the teams that did not win nearly as many games as they had hoped for in the beginning of the season, but they kept their heads high and stayed motivated throughout the season.

Even though not all teams did as well as they would have liked, they still grew as a team to make their season enjoyable.

The girls' softball team hardly won any games, but their team spirit made their sport fun.

"Once we started to see certain players working hard and our captains stepping up, we followed right behind and stepped up our game," Harrison said. "Definitely having a new coach took some getting used to, but I feel he has done a great job this year and keeping us motivated to win. Teamwork is definitely a key priority as well. Like our coach established at the beginning of the year, our team motto was, 'share the work' and we went by that every game." ☺



Dustin Kessler

Elliott Glik takes a faceoff for the Hounds, who have only one senior.

## Young hockey team looks to improve after rough start

**Caroline Greenberg**  
Reporter

Getting up early is nothing new for the Clayton hockey team. The team practices at 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday and has been practicing for about a month.

"I don't have a problem waking up in the morning but the staying awake all day is hard," freshman Liam Dougan said.

The hockey season began by playing St. Charles and Priory with a rough start. The team lost 9-4 and 10-1, respectively.

"With the number of young guys we have and the way things are going, things can only go up," senior Cory Cannon said.

Cannon had actually not been playing due to moving to California but will be back for the season after moving back to Clayton.

"That's nothing against our guys now but I understand the adjustment they are going through and when we get Will Rosenfeld back I think we will certainly get better and do something big in the playoffs," Cannon said.

The team has had a few injuries, such as Josh Becker and Rosenfeld, who just had an appendectomy but will be back soon.

"If we stay healthy, everything should be better," Cannon said.

Another factor changing the hockey team from last year was the number of seniors the team lost. Six seniors graduated who were large contributors to the team.

"It's going to be weird for me to be the only senior and not having the seniors from last year," Cannon said. "Losing guys you truly respect and

look up to is really hard but I hope I make myself that for our young guys this year."

Junior Gabe Jacus has also played hockey the past three years.

"Having the seniors gone really changed the feel of the team," Jacus said. "Not in a bad way but our team is mostly made up of sophomores and freshman. Having Cannon come back really will help."

Jacus has also been juggling hockey with the soccer team since the soccer season is not yet over.

"It's been hard to focus on both things because both sports need my full attention," Jacus said. "It really wears me out."

Although many seniors are gone, several freshmen have joined the team.

"Every freshman has a great amount of potential and that's a good thing in my opinion," Cannon said.

Since six of the 15 boys on the hockey team are freshmen, fans should be seeing lots of them over the season.

"This year we have a smaller team so the freshmen get a lot more ice time compared to past years," Dougan said.

The captains this year are Cannon, Jacus, Rosenfeld, Elliot Glik and Jeremy Beaudette.

"Being a captain this year is really different because you really need to be the example to the new members on the team this year," Jacus said.

The team will be playing for the rest of the winter season.

"We will have great games to come hopefully and with any luck we will see everyone there giving us support," Jacus said. ☺

## Boys' basketball hopes to win district

After an offseason of hard work, the team feels ready to compete for the title after a successful run last year. Although the team does lack depth, returning players are confident they can step up.

**Jon Knohl**  
Reporter

After finishing the season with a loss in the district championship game to M.I.C.D.S, the Boys Varsity Basketball Hounds are back for some sweet revenge.

Last season the hounds finished the season 17-10 and second in the very tough Class 4, District 6 Tournament.

"Our team goal this season is to win the district championship," junior Clayton Buchanan said. "We have worked too hard and long this offseason to not win and it would be a huge disappointment if we don't. We want it bad!"

The Hounds finished last season's campaign ranked 11th in Missouri's Class 4 Division in the Highschool-sports.net's Massey Ratings.

Led by returning varsity players Christian Thomas, Ahmad Smith, Clayton Buchanan, and Charlie

Harned, the team looks to go far in the playoffs.

Last season, Thomas averaged 20.8 points per game and finished 12th in the metro area in scoring while Smith averaged around 10 points per game but will look to fill some shoes and add a lot more points to his scoring average.

Another goal for the team is to win all three of the tournaments that they will be playing in this season. The Hounds will be playing in the Vianney Tournament, the M.I.C.D.S Holiday Tournament, and the CBC D.C. Wilcut Tournament this season.

"The M.I.C.D.S. Tournament is

a big one and high up on our list," junior Charlie Harned said. "There are 16 highly competitive teams in it and it will show us how far we've come since the beginning of the season."

"Our team goal this season is to win the district championship. We worked too hard and long this offseason to not win and it would be a huge disappointment if we don't."

**Clayton Buchanan**  
Junior

The team will be changing up their style of play this season and try to be more aggressive.

"This year will be more of a pressure team rather than a pack it in man-to-man team," head coach Ryan Luhnning said.

Depth will be another key aspect the hounds will need if they look to go far in the post season. The Hounds look to other players to step up their game

this season such as Courtney Sales, Christopher Thomas, Tyler Ponder, Tyler Walker, and Jared and Javon Allen.

"After the Christmas break we will be looking for players such as Jeremy Phillips Ben Williams, and DeMarcus Clemons," Luhnning said. "All three of these players took last year off and we hope they'll be right up to speed and all caught up once the New Year rolls around."

Another key to victory this season will be the crowd. The hounds are looking to get as many members as possible to join the ever so popular, Clayton Crazyies.

"Being a Clayton Crazy is like being the 6th man," junior David Rhodes said. "We get pretty into the games and mess with the other team. It's like being on the court, but not."

The Hound's start off their season at the Rolla Key Sport Shootout on Saturday November 27, 2010. ☺

# Amahl and the Night Visitors

Friday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Featuring Wydown Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grader John Schultz as Amahl on Friday & Sunday and Ricky-Johnson as Amahl on Saturday

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.unionavenueopera.org](http://www.unionavenueopera.org)  
or call the Box Office at 314-361-2881 Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



# Playoffs spots still up for grabs as season's end nears

David Androphy  
Reporter

Just 10 weeks into the 2010 NFL season there have been surprises and a handful of disappointments from teams throughout the league. Several Super Bowl favorites started out with high expectations, but now have struggled lately to get in the win column. As always, a couple of teams who were predicted to fair poorly have proved the experts right. Here's a breakdown of some of the league's tightest divisions heading down the stretch.

In the NFC East the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Eagles currently stand atop of this division. Both teams are 6-3 and seem to have already knocked the struggling Washington Redskins and the Dallas "billion dollar stadium" Cowboys out of contention.

The Redskins' loss to the St. Louis Rams and the Detroit Lions really seemed to have set a tone for this season after the off-season signing of Donovan McNabb. The Giants and Eagles are set to take off in their highly anticipated Sunday night thriller in week 11 for the battle to gain control over the NFC East.

The NFC West is proving week after week that anyone is invited to retain first place. Going into the season, the San Francisco 49ers were the overwhelming favorites to win the division after the retirement of future hall-of-famer Kurt Warner, which seemed to severely hurt the Arizona Cardinals' chances.

The 49ers have crawled their way back into contention with their overtime win over the Rams after starting the season 0-5. The Rams are one of the most improved team in the NFL with rookie-of-the-year caliber showing from Sam Bradford after an embarrassing 1-15 record in 2009.

In order for the Rams to win the division, they must learn to win on the road and be able to continue their success at home. They must finish out games in the second half and to be able to strike first in the third quarter, a quarter where the Rams have struggled greatly this year.

A win at home vs. the Atlanta Falcons and a hopeful first win on the road against the Denver Broncos will keep their division hopes alive and upstart an inconsistent Rams offense. As of now, the Seattle Seahawks hold a slight lead in the division at 5-4, a one game lead over the 4-5 Rams.

The AFC East has lived up to expectations this year as being one of the leagues' powerhouses. Both the New York Jets and the New England Patriots are neck and neck with 7-2 records.

However, inconsistent play from both teams could allow the Miami Dolphins to sneak their way back into the playoff picture. This doesn't seem likely as Miami is down to their third-string QB, Tyler Thigpen, after injuries suffered from Chad Pennington and Chad Henne. Lately, the Jets have squeezed by with slim overtime wins over the Lions and the Browns.

The Patriots haven't been so lucky after a 3-14 beat down they received from the Cleveland Browns, but they were able to salvage a win last week against one the league's best Pittsburgh Steelers. Last, but not least, the Buffalo Bills are left in the dust with a 1-8 record, their first win coming against the Lions.

In the AFC North both the Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers have continued to stretch the win margin over the 3rd place Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals. This division battle is tied up with both teams resting at 6-3.

Currently, the Ravens hold the tiebreaker with after a week 4 in Pittsburgh by the score of 17-14. The Steelers are coming off a loss to the Patriots, but have a seemingly easy next 2 weeks against the Oakland Raiders and on the road against the 1-8 Bills.

The Ravens get a chance to ease off on the pressure the next 2 weeks against the 1-8 Carolina Panthers and the 6-3 Tampa Bucs, who struggled on the road in the first half of the season which consisted of more home games.

The schedule over the next 2 weeks gives the Steelers and the Ravens the opportunity to widen the division gap over the 3-6 Browns and the 2-7 Bengals. Sorry, Ochocinco, there isn't a whole lot to celebrate over. ☹



Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick runs for a touchdown in the 1st quarter against the Washington Redskins at FedEx Field. Vick's dominant performance soared the Eagles into a tie in first place with the New York Giants. (David Maialetti/Philadelphia Daily News/MCT)

## Kevin Davis: Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach, JV Boys' Assistant Soccer Coach

### Why did you start coaching?

I have always loved sports. No matter what it is, I like to play. I also like teaching people new things. Coaching is a great way to do both!

### What advice do you have for athletes? What qualities do you look for in your players?

Advice to Athletes - If you don't love what you do, then don't do it.

Qualities - Hardworking, Dedicated, and Respectful.

### Who is your favorite pro-athlete?

Scottie Pippen!



### What is your favorite pump up/workout song?

Battle song from Last of the Mohicans.

### Anything else you want to add?

GO HOUNDS!!

# New faces at the helm of winter sports teams

## Ron Lefcourt: JV Girls' Basketball Coach

### Did you play any sports in high school? If so what position and at what school?

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and played basketball and tennis for Deerfield High School. I played guard on the b-ball team.

### Did you continue playing in college? Where?

I didn't play basketball in college and I turned down a tennis scholarship at Miz-zou. I ended up attending the University of Illinois.

### How long have you been coaching?

I coached in Chicago for 4 years and have been coaching basketball in St. Louis for the past 11 years. This is my second time around at Clayton. When I first starting coaching in St. Louis, I coached the Freshmen and was varsity assistant at CHS.

### Why did you decide to start coaching?

In one way or another I've been around the game most of my life and I enjoy the challenge of building a team and seeing the growth of the players. I enjoy the relationship and interaction with the student athletes and I get a lot of satisfaction being able to provide some knowledge about the game as well as life in general.



### What advice do you have for athletes? What qualities do you look for in your players?

My advice is always; if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well and to the best of your ability. I look for players who have a great attitude, are willing to work hard and play hard, show respect to others and most of all have fun while they're doing it.

### Who is your favorite pro-athlete and why?

Michael Jordan is my favorite professional athlete. Being from Chicago I had the chance to see him play in person many times. I never have seen an athlete with a greater desire to achieve and succeed. He prided himself on being the best at all facets of the game; not just shooting and scoring.

### Anything else you want to add?

Only that I'm looking forward to coaching at Clayton and feel privileged to have a great group of girls on my JV team.

# Free agent shake-up causes serious NBA competition

Chris Cho  
Reporter

Claimed as the most prestigious free agent class in the history of the NBA, this season will serve as a stepping stone to what we may see for the next decade. This free agent class consisted of future hall of famers; including LeBron James, Dwayne Wade, Carlos Boozer, Amar'e Stoudemire, Joe Johnson, Ray Allen, Chris Bosh, Dirk Nowitzki, Paul Pierce, and David Lee.

As this season will provide many same faces in new places, the league could go into some deep changes as a result of the re-shuffling. These changes could lead to dynasties being formed.

"The Decision" aired on ESPN in the summer where LeBron James announced where he would play for the following years. He announced he would join the Miami Heat with Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh already on the roster.

This move made the world wonder how dominant this team could potentially become. The Miami Heat acquired three of the most coveted free agents in the game of basketball in order to win a championship.

Although there are questions at point guard and center, experts believe this team could win the next four championships, making them a dynasty. However this task will not be easy because they will need to improve the defense. Also there will be plenty of teams with much to prove.

Although the Orlando Magic did not make too many changes, they will want to prove that they are still one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference. Led by Dwight Howard, the Orlando Magic are still hungry to win a championship after falling short in 2009.

Longing for more change were the Boston Celtics, the most prestigious team in basketball. They went out and acquired Shaquille O'neal, a four-time championship winner, and Delonte West from the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Marked as the "last run", many people predict this will be the last year Doc Rivers, Paul Pierce, Ray Allen, and Kevin Garnett will be together. The Celtics will be hungry to win one final championship before a potential breakout. Many believe this team is an underdog to do very well this season.

The Chicago Bulls had a very busy offseason acquir-

ing the work horse power forward Carlos Boozer and sharpshooter Kyle Korver. The Bulls have quickly developing Derrick Rose at the point and competitor Joakim Noah at the Center position.

When Boozer comes back from a hand injury, the Bulls could go deep into the playoffs if Boozer and Rose can connect.

The East has two perennial powers, the Heat and the Celtics, that could challenge the defending champions from winning three straight championships.

The West is always very competitive and is headlined with the defending champion Lakers. The Lakers also made some significant moves that could definitely help them.

They signed Steve Blake, high percentage shooter from Portland, and also signed Matt Barnes from the Orlando Magic. Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol will be back to attempt a three-peat.

The Dallas Mavericks did not make too many big moves beside signing Tyson Chandler, a rebounding machine, and resigning Brendan Haywood. They will do very well in the regular season again, but as always the big question will be whether they can compete in the playoffs.

Then comes the youngest, but most talented team in the NBA. The Oklahoma City Thunder have three superstars in the making: Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, and Jeff Green. Last year the Thunder took the mighty Lakers to six games and Bryant said that the Thunder were one of toughest oppositions of the postseason.

If the Thunder can grow and build upon last season, they could compete with the Lakers at the top.

The final team that could pose a threat is the Utah Jazz. Although they lost their big man, Boozer, they did add another big man in Al Jefferson. With a great point guard in Derron Williams, the Jazz could challenge the Lakers in the regular season, but may not be as fortunate in the postseason.

In the Eastern Conference Finals, the Heat and Celtics will probably meet in a great series. In the West, the Lakers and Jazz may battle it out. The finals could show a meeting between Heat and the Lakers. In the end, the Lakers will most likely prevail one last time to win three straight championships. However, don't be surprised if the Heat improve in years to come and do very well in the future. ☹



The Miami Heat's Chris Bosh is ready for the new season as the Heat prepare for the start of its home opener against the Orlando Magic at AmericanAirlines Arena on October 29, 2010. (Robert Duyos/Sun Sentinel/MCT)





## UNDERDOGS THE HOUNDS MAKE HISTORY

**Anat Gross**  
Sports Editor

For the first time in CHS history, the boys' varsity soccer team made a run for the state title. After a tough 2-0 loss to St. Mary's, the Hounds bounced back to beat Marshall High School 4-2, finishing 3rd place in Class 2 Soccer for the state.

Despite the hard loss to St. Mary's, Head Coach Tom Redmond was pleased with how the team played.

"I was especially pleased at how we started the game," Redmond said. "We really came out ready to play. In the second half we had a couple of lapses defensively that led to the two goals that St. Mary's scored against us. However, we fought and played hard until the very end, and I am very proud of our team."

There were many outstanding performances during the St. Mary's game. Defensively, the Hounds held St. Mary's from scoring until there were 10 minutes left in the second half. The team was also very aggressive on offense, with numerous attacks and drives by senior Will Hayes and junior Gabe Jacus.

Even with the loss, senior Kevin Matheny was proud of how well the team played and believes they proved that CHS had earned its place on the field.

"We played really well," Matheny said. "St. Mary's is a really good team and you have to give them credit for that win. But we showed that we were a team that belonged there."

After their devastating loss to St. Mary's, the Hounds had to quickly recover and prepare for their match against Marshall the very next day.

"The team took the loss to St. Mary's very hard, as we all believed that we could win the State Championship," Redmond said. "But the guys got their focus back for Saturday's match and they really wanted to finish the season with a win and a 3rd place finish."

The team was able to overcome the fatigue and disappointment from the game against St. Mary's, defeating Marshall 4-2. According to Matheny, the team "all decided that third place was a lot better than fourth place."

In the game against Marshall, it was the juniors who took charge. Charlie Harned scored two goals, while Gabe Jacus and Maamoun Hossayrami scored one goal apiece, leading the Hounds to their third place finish.

No one would have expected the Hounds to take third place after their rocky start this season. It was the team's amazing victory over Priory, the best seeded team

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Junior Charlie Harned jump-kicks against Marshall; Junior Gabe Jacus dribbles across the field; Senior Beau Hayden leaps to kick the ball away from St. Mary's defenders; Seniors Beau Hayden, Josh Goldstein, and Kevin Matheny drive across the field; Charlie Harned rushes toward the opposing goalkeeper; CHS senior goalkeeper Michael Takes snatches away the ball. All photos by Elizabeth Sikora



in Class 2, in the second round of Districts that really set off the Hound's playoff run.

"I knew we were going to be good, but a little bit through the season our record wasn't as good as it should have been," Matheny said. "I did feel down a little bit. I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but after we beat Priory we really all knew we could go pretty far."

Redmond also discussed the importance of the Priory game for the team as a source of motivation.

"After we beat Priory in the District second round, our team confidence really increased as we knew that we had beaten the best team in Class 2 Soccer at the time," Redmond said. "So we knew that we could go far in the State Tournament."

While the Hounds may have played inconsistently during the regular season, they overcame and did the unexpected, beating Marshall 4-2 for a third place finish in Class 2 Missouri Soccer.

According to Redmond "team chemistry" was a main component in their success this season. It was also the players' belief that "anything is possible," which allowed them to overcome injuries, losses, and inconsistencies so that they could be the first team in CHS soccer history to finish 3rd in the State Tournament. 🐾





**Dawn Androphy**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Just about all students have been bored by school at some point in their lives. They might be enrolled in a class there, the subject matter doesn't interest them, or they might even be in a class that moves too slowly for them. However, for most of these disinterested students, nothing really comes of their fleeting moments of angsty dreams of leaving school behind.

On the other hand, a small but increasing subset of students chooses to leave traditional schooling behind by becoming homeschooled or 'unschooled,' an alternate path of learning outside of a traditional school. Clayton resident Selena Wilkinson used to attend Wydown Middle School, but left after her first semester of eighth grade to become unschooled. She decided to take the unschooling route instead of more traditional homeschooling to create her own curriculum.

"Homeschooling, I kind of feel, is when your parents set up what you're going to learn, keep track of what you're learning, make sure you do all your work, and they have a curriculum and maybe even make you take tests on it," Wilkinson said. "Unschooling is more self-directed. There's definitely input from other people, but you mostly decide for yourself what you want to learn and you go about finding your sources and your curriculum by yourself. You set up your own timeframe and stuff."

Wilkinson uses a combination of self-teaching, local classes, and online classes to teach herself what is essentially the equivalent of a high school curriculum. Now a sophomore, Wilkinson has taken classes in a variety of different forms. She's a member of the St. Louis Homeschool Network, so she takes some of her classes in the homes of other homeschooled teens in the area.

However, she reserves her favorite subjects for self-studying.

"I teach myself a lot of history and literature stuff because I feel like those are my strong suits and I'm really interested in them," Wilkinson said. "So I don't need the extra push from other sources to get that stuff done."

Thus far, Wilkinson has felt her learning experience has become much more personal due to the smaller scale of a school environment in her life.

"There's definitely stuff that is like school," Wilkinson said. "But I feel like I'm more respected as a person than I was in school. Like, my opinion means more. In school, the teacher was just there to teach us and didn't really want to learn from us, too."

Jonah Lindblad, a current sophomore at CHS, was



## There's No School Like Home

Teens find that homeschooling and unschooling are a beneficial alternative to a high school curriculum.

homeschooled from the fourth grade through freshmen year. While he was homeschooling, Lindblad was initially taught by his mother (a former professor at UMSL) with a more flexible learning structure.

"The first year I did it, it was sort of a build your own curriculum thing that we did," Lindblad said. "While that was pretty fun, there was just kind of a lack of motivation with it and it just kind of felt like you could slack off easily."

After this method proved to be less than satisfactory, Lindblad moved on to correspondence programs with

structured curriculums as he got older.

"We used a correspondence program," Lindblad said. "So, basically, you pick a curriculum; you do the curriculum. It was actually, in my opinion, a little more difficult homeschooling and more challenging than it is here, which I know surprises some people. When I came here, my classes were way easier because you actually have a lecturer and someone to ask more about [the material]. Whereas, at home, I just had a textbook so I could only read, read, read."

Although he has now fully transitioned to a more tra-

ditional educational route, there are still some things he misses about his homeschooling experience. For example, it was difficult for him to adjust to a less personalized learning schedule.

"If I was studying one thing and I really didn't get it that well, I could look over it as many times I wanted to until I actually got it and understood the subject fully," Lindblad said. "Whereas, here, you do it, but then you kind of have to move on with the rest of the class even if you don't get it. Or, if you get something really quickly and you understand the subject, then you can go on to the next part. But, if everyone else is having trouble, then you have to sit there on the same subject until everyone else understands it."

Lindblad's main motive for leaving traditional schooling was the lack of challenges available to him in the Webster Groves School District, where he attended elementary school.

"They wanted me to skip a grade or two there," Lindblad said. "Which would have been really awkward. So, I really didn't want to do that and it seemed like homeschooling was a better alternative because even skipping a year or two in their classes wouldn't do anything for me anyway."

Wilkinson also left because she didn't feel challenged in some of her classes at Wydown and found memorization and test-taking to be too prominent in the curriculum for her taste. However, the social environment at Wydown was what pushed her to homeschooling after a long deliberation.

"There's a lot of social pressure, especially in middle school, that I didn't want to deal with, like being popular instead of being myself," Wilkinson said. "Those sorts of things are easier once you're not in school, I think."

Wilkinson was also put off by the new habits developing among her peers that she wished to avoid.

"Well, there was a lot of pressure to start drinking and get involved in sexual stuff and I wasn't really ready for that when I was at that part of eighth grade," Wilkinson said. "I didn't want to do anything that I would regret when I was young. There was also a lot of pressure to wear certain clothes and dress like everyone else, which definitely continues in life, but it's really evident when you're young."

Although she found the social aspect of homeschooling to be difficult at first, Wilkinson feels that she has met her stride socially.

"I went to a camp for homeschoolers and unschoolers and some kids who go to regular school," Wilkinson

*Homeschooling, pg. 17*



Joe Jones, *American, 1909–1963; View of St. Louis, c.1932; oil on canvas; 25 1/4 x 50 1/2 inches; Saint Louis Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Robert Elman 46:1972; © Heirs of Joe Jones.*

## Depression-era exhibit paints a desperate scene

**Eudora Olsen**  
Reporter

Known as a radical communist, artist Joe Jones broke barriers with his statement paintings and detailed lithographs. The exhibit "Joe Jones: Painter of the American Scene" is on display at the St. Louis Art Museum from Oct. 10, 2010 through Jan. 2, 2011.

Jones was born in St. Louis in 1909 and began painting at the age of 16. The first room of the exhibit is called "St. Louis Subjects." Mounted on the walls are some of Jones' earliest works.

Just like many other artists, Jones began by employing family members to model for his paintings. These paintings include a painting of his wife Freda, his mother, his father, and his aunt Bessie.

Throughout the first room, it is obvious that the young Jones loved to experiment with color. His pieces are vibrant and lively and he uses color to convey the emotion of the painting.

The painting titled "My Father" is a view of his father from the back. Even though it is one of the more somber pieces of the bunch, with a gray color palette and muted lighting, there is a life that Jones captures in his portrayal of his father through the color choice and perspective.

The second room of the exhibit

is called "St. Louis Scene." Many of the pieces in this room are simple and geometric, a stark difference from the realistic and detailed paintings of his family members in the first room.

The second room feels like a tour of St. Louis in the early 1930s. Lithographs of neighborhoods are combined with murals of the riverfront in a display of St. Louis' greatest sights.

A nod to Jones' later, darker works can be seen in a painting called "The Struggle." This painting stands out among the brightly colored, geometric paintings of the second room because of its detail and somber mood. It is a good segue to the next room, titled "Injustice."

"Paint things that will knock holes in the walls," Jones once said. The third room of paintings portrays the heroism of the middle class. Jones was an active rebel against the white, dominant business owners of the early 1930s. He was a young idealist who made political statements through his art. In this room there are many paintings of oppressed African-Americans working for white men. One painting titled "We Demand" was painted in 1934 of a protest by African Americans for more rights as workers.

The fourth room is titled "The Dust Bowl." Jones often found inspiration by observing the working

class farmers in the South. Many of the paintings in this room depict the hardships that farmers had to face during the devastating Dust Bowl. Many of the pieces in this room are in simple brush and ink wash. By not using brightly colored oil paints, Jones gives his pieces texture and feel of dust.

One piece in particular in the fourth room titled "Our American Farms" is a drawing of a small, dilapidated farm on the top of a mound of a dust. The ground is parched and the scene gives the viewer a sense of the despair that farmers felt due to the Dust Bowl.

The final room of the exhibit is called "The Heartland." Jones was considered the "professor of wheat" because of his brilliant murals of the wheat workers in the south. Although the Dust Bowl was depressing, Jones respected the farmers' determination and portrayed them as heroes of the working class in these paintings. Light colors and happy workers don the walls of this final room. Jones was an artist with a mission. He created art that brought social problems to the public eye. In his vivid interpretations of the struggles of the 1930s, Jones made a profound statement about the power of the people. The exhibit "Joe Jones: Painter of the American Scene" at the St. Louis Art Museum is intriguing and thought-provoking. A must-see. ☺

## filling in the blanks

Getting to know Spanish teacher Teresa Schafer..

**Shiori Tomatsu**  
Reporter

### I became a teacher because...

I come from a family of teachers. My grandmother was a teacher, my dad was a principal, and my mother was also a principal and an elementary teacher. Since I was a little girl, I was the designated teacher, always teaching the kids. I was the appointed teacher for some reason... I love teaching and learning because you cannot teach without learning.

### I think foreign languages are very important because...

Especially now, the way the world is going global, the economy is going to globalization. If our children are limited to one language, their opportunities to function in the world are also going to be very limited. Speaking another language gives you a life perspective that is different and new to everything you know. It's almost like a new set of eyes. When I read "Hamlet" in Spanish, it was one experience, but when I read it in English, it was a completely different experience. I think I'm a different person because I speak three languages.

### When in high school, I liked to...

Recite poetry and I also liked to write poetry. I love Pablo Neruda. He is a Chilean writer who won the Nobel Prize in literature. I absolutely love Mistral, Octavio Paz, and in English, I love e. e. cummings. I liked to play sports, but I was not very good at them. I was a pretty decent swimmer so swimming was something that I really enjoyed doing. I loved participating in social events and activities and I always tried to help in student activities.

### Now, I like to...

Spend time outdoors. I like to read as much as I can and as much as my busy schedule allows me. I like to work out a lot too and I love cooking! If I would have not been a teacher, I would have become a chef and you can write that down. I love cooking and watching cooking shows... My favorite meal to cook would have to be seafood pasta, barbeque ribs, and oriental dishes. I would love to learn how to make sushi!

### My greatest fear is...

Our planet in peril. We are destroying our planet and there is no common awareness that we're doing such things. I think some countries are becoming more and more aware and taking real steps to help the planet, but other countries are not aware yet. I fear that my grandchildren are not going to see the world that I am seeing... they probably will not see the species we see, the abundance of the crops, the weather... it's all going to change.



Paul Lisker

### My favorite motto is...

"Se cococha lo que se siembra." You harvest what you have planted. It's basically saying all your actions have a consequence. If you plant hatred, you're going to harvest hatred. It applies to everything... life's going to give you whatever you put in.

### The most important lesson I've ever learned is...

Never judge a book by its cover. In my relationships with people, I have learned my greatest lessons from the simplest of people. Often times, I thought the biggest lessons you learn are from scholars and wise men, but the biggest lessons I have learned in life actually come from people that maybe don't even know how to read and write. Some of them possess wisdom that they acquire through life, not through books. You can see the smartest person in the world and not learn anything and you can see the most humble human being, a simple man, and learn something very insightful. When I visited Guatemala, I had the pleasure to talk to a local who brought me a lot of very insightful things about life, and I never thought someone of his simplicity had so much wisdom. It was like reading a good philosophy book, talking to this man.

### When I stop teaching, I want to...

I'll probably never stop teaching. If I leave the high school, I'll probably continue teaching somehow. I wouldn't be surprised if I died teaching because I don't know what else I could do. Or I could learn how to be a chef and I will teach cooking and you can write that! Maybe I'll learn to be a chef and become a chef teacher! Cooking is about bringing people together and about sharing. If you have a good recipe, why not teach it? Anyway, I definitely don't want to stop teaching. ☺



# Celebrations of LIGHT

No matter the religion, no matter the belief, light is a universal symbol for good: people all over the world celebrate using light each winter.

Meredith McMahon  
Editor

## Christianity

As the holidays draw near and the winter season begins to creep upon us, light becomes a more and more valuable commodity to our everyday lives. Whether it is the white Christmas lights twinkling in the trees in downtown Clayton or a fire roaring in the fireplace at home, it's undeniable that as the weather gets chillier more light is used for warmth and security. In the winter, different religions use and take on the idea of light through celebration.

Christianity is one of these religions. Light is a theme in the Christmas story, which describes how the three wise men followed the Star of Bethlehem to find baby Jesus, who was just born. The star served as a guide to find Jesus, which symbolizes that Jesus is a guiding light. The Advent wreath is used in the preparation for Christmas as well.

"We [Christians] begin with one light and as the light of the world [the birth of Jesus] draws closer we light four lights," Monsignor John Shamleffer of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Clayton said. "It is dimmer at the beginning of Advent and brighter at the end towards Christmas, and it's done in a wreath setting to remind us that there is no beginning or end to a circle and that Christ, like a circle, is eternal."

Light is used not only in decorations, but also as a larger idea in the Christian community.

"Light is considered a universal symbol for truth, for knowledge, and since God is automatically considered to be omniscient, he leads to light," president of the CHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes John Holland said.

Light is a form of wisdom that connects it with the idea of God and holiness.

"Biologically, humans are not made to see in the dark," Holland said. "Humans need a lot of light to be able to see anything... We have formed a link between light and knowledge. With darkness, however, one has in front of them the unknown... Darkness actually is the embodiment of ignorance."

The idea of light is used prevalently in Christianity, and according to Shamleffer, Christians are like candles.

"We also see the importance of allowing the light to be in each person, that's why at baptism the child is presented with a baptismal candle lit from the Easter candle, as a reminder that the light of Christ is in their life," Shamleffer said. "Each of us can think of our light as being insignificant, and makes us think 'what can we do?'"

Light is also used in other ceremonies. The Roman Catholic church celebrates the Easter Vigil. The priest lights the Easter Fire. As it grows dark, the priest lights the Easter Candle from the flame. Churchgoers carry candles, and when they enter the unlit church, the lights eventually illuminate the church. According to Holland, Christians are like candles, illuminating the world.

"Part of this whole celebration is a celebration of the light," Shamleffer said. "The light represents the one who dispels darkness, Jesus Christ, and the darkness is the absence of God from our world."

Light is a powerful substance that is used not only in ordinary life to illuminate the world around us, but it also gives us wisdom by letting us see clearly. Light, in many religions, is like God, in that it is an unexplainable, yet undeniable, truth.

## Judaism

Light is used in Judaism and its celebrations. One example is Hanukkah, a popular Jewish holiday, filled with tradition, family, and of course, light. During the cold winter months, it is easy to find a Jewish family huddled around a twinkling menorah and celebrating the holiday together. Light brings the family together, and represents a history and a belief.

"Hanukkah, a winter holiday remembering the rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C.E., is known as the 'Festival of Lights,'" Saint Louis University Professor David Oughton said. "A candle is lit for each of the eight days as a sign of a miracle."

The candles are held in a menorah, which lights the room. Families play dreidel, exchange gifts, and eat latkes. The attitude of the celebration is bright and warm, just like the candles it centers around. The light illuminates the celebration, spreading warmth and joy.

"The light is representative of the miracles as well as God's light and faith and hope and all that good stuff," senior Becca Steinberg said. "I think that light became a universal symbol of hope, knowledge, enlightenment,

and other positive things because without light, you are helpless to really do anything at all."

God, like light, helps Jews to see. He allows them to see what is right and what is good. Light is used to represent many things in Judaism, and according to Rabbi Hyim Shafner, even God himself. In many religious texts, God is referred to as light. Light is so significant that the first thing that God did to create the world was creating light.

"Perhaps our mission as humans is to bring light in a dark world," Shafner said.

People are supposed to spread light, or as Steinberg said, hope, knowledge, and enlightenment. Hanukkah is a celebration that most people have heard of. However, according to Steinberg it is not the most important Jewish holiday.

"Hanukkah isn't actually the major holiday for Jews," Steinberg said. "It just happens to be a fun one and when Christmas was secularized, it got linked to Christmas, which is why it is so big. The holidays that are traditionally the most important are Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, which are actually in the fall."

Before Christmas was made popular, Hanukkah did not even involve exchanging gifts. Even if Hanukkah is not the biggest or most significant Jewish holiday, it is still a very old tradition.

"It commemorates an event from several thousand years ago," Shafner said.

Hanukkah celebrates a victory over the Greeks, and the miracle that followed.

"When they got to the temple to praise God, the temple had been totally decimated," Steinberg said. "They wanted to light the menorah, but they only found one bottle of oil, enough to last for one day. The oil making process lasted eight days, so the second miracle was that the tiny bottle lasted for eight days."

Just as it was back then, light is used to praise God in temples today.

"There is an eternal light in each synagogue that is always kept burning," Shafner said.

Light is used in Judaism to represent God and his ideas. It is also used in celebrations such as Hanukkah, and spreads warmth and happiness.

Sarah Blackwell  
Editor

## Hinduism

Less advertised, though just as popular, is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali is celebrated all over the world in numerous ways. People light candles, lamps, and even firecrackers and fireworks. It is a lively celebration that many people enjoy every fall.

"During Diwali people usually light rows of candles or clay lamps that are filled with oil," sophomore Ravali Poreddy said. "This signifies the triumph of good over evil."

Besides just lighting lamps, people celebrate Diwali by getting together with family and friends.

"We do fireworks with other families, plus we have dinner parties at people's houses," sophomore Varun Chakravarthy said.

Chakravarthy enjoys Diwali because he gets to see friends that don't go to school with him.

Like most religious celebrations, Diwali is a time to celebrate people's relationships as well as shared beliefs. Light is used to symbolize religious beliefs in numerous celebrations.

"Light is supposed to signify good, vision, and knowledge," Poreddy said. "Darkness is supposed to represent ignorance and impurity because it blocks out light, which is supposed to be the source of light and knowledge."

Chakravarthy has a different view of what light represents in religions.

"In Hinduism, I guess light represents life," Chakravarthy said. "Most other religions also think of it that way."

Others, though, believe that light is represented as a triumph over evil.

"Light is used in the ceremonies of different religions as a symbol of overcoming the darkness of sin or ignorance," Saint Louis University Professor David Oughton said.

According to him, light allows a person to see spiritually as well as physically. Light guides people on the path of life.

Light is used as a symbol in Diwali, but the holiday

also has a history to it. Light is used in Diwali because rows of lights welcomed Lord Rama back to his home after being banished for 14 years.

"It's supposed to represent the coming home of one of our gods named Lord Rama. It was supposed to light up the passageway of Lord Rama to his village," Chakravarthy said.

The light guided him home, as it guides people along their way today. This ancient event is still hugely important and significant. It is used to teach lessons, and just to bring people together through celebration.

"During his time away, Rama defeated the demon Ravana, and crowned Ravana's brother, Vibishina, who was good, to be the new king of Lanka," Poreddy said.

Diwali is celebrated around November because that is the time that Rama returned. This year it fell on Nov. 5. Outside of celebration, light is used often in Hinduism.

"Light is used a lot in prayer," Poreddy said. "Usually whenever you pray either at the temple, or at home, people put out candles in front of their pictures."

For people, religion can be described as a home—and, as described of Diwali, this light is both physical and spiritual. Whether light comes in the form of firecrackers or Advent wreaths, it is a beautiful way to enjoy the holidays, and all the people involved.

## Islam

Light is a powerful idea that plays a role in many religions, including Islam. Not only can lights physically be seen around this time, but families find warmth being with each other. The Hajj, a Muslim celebration, celebrates sacrifice and service to the community as well as volunteering. Hajj is celebrated according to the Islamic calendar, and this year was Nov. 14 to Nov. 18.

It is part of the five pillars of Islam. These pillars include 'shadadah', or the basic creed of Islam: "I testify that there is none worthy of worship except God and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God."

The creed is a foundation for many other Muslim beliefs and practices. The other pillars include 'salah' or ritual prayer, 'sawm' or fasting during the month of Ramadan, 'zakat' or alms giving and finally 'hajj', the pilgrimage to Mecca.

During this holiday many people make a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, including roughly 35 to 40 people from the Greater St. Louis Area according to Imam Muhamed Hasic of the Islamic Community Center in St. Louis. In Islam, it is tradition that each adult Muslim who can afford it should travel to Mecca during Hajj. Muslims also spend time with family and extended family to celebrate.

"It's harder to do it [get together with family] here, because most of my family lives back in Lebanon so we can't really all get together," sophomore Hassan Hossayrami said. "But in Lebanon we get all our relatives together from my mom and dad's side. We usually have a barbeque, and all the kids do fireworks and stuff like that. It's all about all the families being together."

Lights are strung on the Minaret around the time of the holiday, Nov. 14, and at the Islamic Community Center in St. Louis the Minaret is lit up from Nov. 14 until Nov. 18.

"We use the Minaret as a marker to call for prayer," Imam Muhamed Hasic said. "During this time of Hajj we put lights on the tower for a few nights."

Hajj is not the only time that Muslims celebrate their religion.

"Another time which we celebrate is the marking of the end of the month of fasting, or Ramadan, which this year ended on Sept. 8," Hasic said. "We put up lots of electric lights during that time also."

Hossayrami describes Ramadan.

"It's celebrated as the break from the fast of the Ramadan. The end of Ramadan is celebrated with family and you get a couple days off school but you don't really do anything special besides eating again," Hossayrami said.

The holiday that immediately follows Hajj is Eid al-Adha, which is celebrated in commemoration of the story of Abraham and his son. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, but when he agreed, God provided him with a ram instead. The holiday is celebrated on the third day of Hajj and lasts for four days. To honor this story, they sacrifice animals, and donate the meat to the community. Every year the Islamic Community Center of St. Louis donates around 3 thousand pounds of meat to needy people from this holiday.

The holiday season is certainly a time of light, gathering and, most importantly, family. This theme of celebration applies to many different religions and cultures and is a strong bond between all the different religions. ☺

Illustration by Meredith McMahon

## Christianity

"While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light."

John 12: 36

## Judaism

"The Lord shall be your light forever; your God shall be your glory."

Isaiah 60: 19

## Hinduism

"Brahman is Light of all lights who lives beyond our ignorant darkness." Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 13

## Islam

"God will provide for you a Light by which you shall walk straight in your path."  
Qur'an 57: 28



# Holiday Traditions

Holidays bring cheer and warmth to Christian and Jewish families

Anna Williams  
Reporter

When it gets colder, it is instinctive that one should make preparations for the two most celebrated holidays in America; Christmas and Hanukkah. Both are celebrated around the same time and have deep meanings to the Jews and Christians who celebrate them. The actual basis for celebrating Hanukkah, however, is not so much religious as it is historical.

"Hanukkah commemorates the occasion when the Jews defeated the Greeks," junior Paul Lisker said. "This basically commemorates that fact and how they rebuilt the temple. Hanukkah means dedication, so that's basically what the holiday is about."

Sophomore David Iken adds that Hanukkah was a miracle and a great triumph in the Jewish faith because, without the help of God, it would have been impossible for them to win the battle against the Greeks.

Because Hanukkah is more historical than religious, it is more relaxing than the other Jewish holidays.

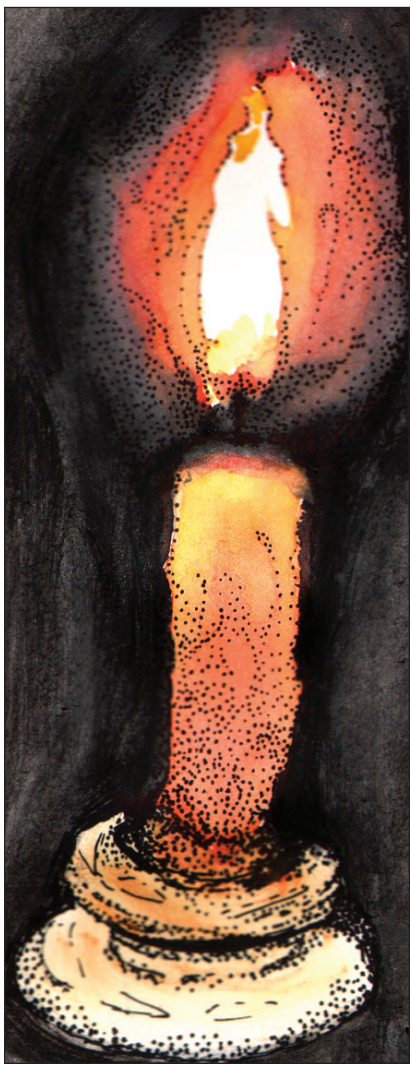
"It's important to note that, in terms of Judaism, Hanukkah is not the most important celebration," Lisker said. "It's rather minor. It's also not mentioned anywhere in the Old Testament. Because of that, for Orthodox Jews it doesn't compare in importance to other major holidays such as Passover. The more reformed strike a comparison between Hanukkah and Christmas because they elevate the importance of Hanukkah and it becomes a major holiday for them. Ultimately the tradition of the celebration remains relatively constant that of lighting the candles each night."

Sophomore David Iken adds that Hanukkah is not like the other Jewish holidays where one goes to Synagogue and says different prayers. Hanukkah is a more laid back celebration where one can get together with family and light the menorah.

"Ever since I was a kid it was one of the holidays where I could see all of my family and extended family," Lisker said. "It was just very happy holiday. I keep with tradition and religion. It's always a fun time. It's a great way to relax."

Iken agrees with Lisker that it Hanukkah is a great time to relax and have fun.

"You eat, get presents and hang out with your family," Iken said. "There's also the ceremonious lighting of the menorah. A menorah is like a long candleholder with nine places for the candles. As each night progresses you light each candle with the candle in the middle in accor-



Sarah Blackwell

dance with which night it is."

As with most holidays eating is a huge part and is usually the part that is most looked forward to.

"My favorite part is the food," Lisker said. "The food has to be cooked in oil which pays tribute to the oil in the temple that lasted for eight days. I particularly enjoy the latkes. My family makes them with apple and jelly donuts."

Iken also enjoys latkes, a popular food of the holidays.

"My mom makes latkes which are potato pancakes," Iken said. "You can eat it with sour cream or applesauce on top."

That being said it is evident that no Jewish family is alike and different denominations have their own separate traditions to celebrate Hanukkah.

"Some reform Jews don't always light the candles," Iken said. "Some have electric menorahs. One tradition in our family that we have is that we use olive oil. Since the oil lasted for eight days in the temple during Hanukkah, we chose to light olive oil instead of candles. It gives the celebration a little more meaning."

Even though it has been established as a tradition to give gifts,

custom did not come about until centuries after the holiday originated.

"Giving presents is more of a secular tradition," Lisker said. "It has nothing to do with the Hanukkah celebration at all. In fact it's more of a myth than reality. If you talk to a lot of Jews you'll find out that not everyone gives gifts everyday. My family has never given a gift everyday. Actually most of the people I know do not follow that tradition."

Like every holiday, Hanukkah is a way to spend time with one's family and perhaps get closer to one's faith.

"Hanukkah, like many festivities, does bring me closer to the culture and the traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation in my family," Lisker said.

Christmas, on the other hand, is the one holiday that

is and has been acknowledged and materialized by almost all Americans, including Macy's Wal-Mart, Target and, of course, Toys R Us. However few people who celebrate it know the actual true meaning of Christmas.

"I'm a born and raised Christian, so Christmas has always meant that it was the birth of Jesus Christ and all of the events that lead to that including Isaiah's prophecy in the Old Testament," senior John Holland said. "Christmas is the start of the perfect love story. Jesus came to earth to die for all people, so that we might be forgiven and have eternal life. He did this because he loves mankind and does not want us to be forsaken."

That being said many traditions such as getting together with family and giving gifts has always been associated with Christmas for various reasons. However, different denominations do have different aspects on how the tradition started.

"Christians give out presents because the wise men gave gifts to Jesus," junior Taylor Kloha said. "They travelled to Bethlehem guided by a star, which is also why we put stars on top of our Christmas trees, and once they reached the stable where Jesus was born they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold because he was the king of kings, Frankincense because he was the priest of all priests and myrrh because he would be the atonement for the world."

"To my knowledge we began giving presents because it displayed a distribution of generosity," Holland said. "But we mainly give gifts because Jesus was God's gift to the world. That's how I always thought of it."

Another varying tradition with Christian denominations is the celebration of advent.

"I really like the season before Christmas," Kloha said. "In the church we call it advent. I like the anticipation. At church we light the advent wreath and at home we set out our manger scene and start putting our tree and decorations up. Our parents also try to do devotions with us, which are short bible studies that you do every day leading up to Christmas."

Since Christmas is the largest holiday for Christians to celebrate, Church is always incorporated somehow into

the festivities, though this too differs among families.

"I go to an Evangelical Presbyterian Church and what I like about that is that there is still a structured ceremony, but it's not as scripted or as legalistic as a Catholic ceremony would be," Holland said. "It's more relaxed and enjoyable that way."

"I know that most Christian families go to church on Christmas Eve," Kloha said. "It's tradition to go to a church service sometime during the holiday. My family goes on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning."

Along with religious traditions, there are also traditions that are unique in how one spends time with their family.

"My entire mother's side of the family lives in the St. Louis area, so it doesn't take that much

for us to get together for holidays," Holland said. "We spend the entire week together. We never have to travel very far. We always read the Nativity story from the book of Matthew every year. It's tradition for most Christian families to do that. Since my family is so close it's nice to have a full week solely focused on family. We're all really close."

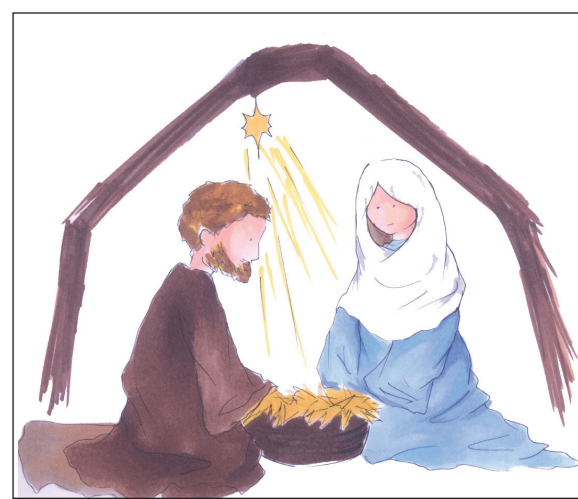
Along with getting together with family, Christmas morning is the one event that is anticipated by everyone.

"The first Christmas present my sister and I would open when we were young was the baby Jesus from our manger scene," Kloha said. "My mom would wrap up the baby Jesus and we'd open that one first. The names tag would always say 'From: God. To: The World.'"

Even though the basis for Christmas is religious, when Santa Claus came into the picture many misconceptions about Christmas arose, such as the overemphasis of gifts and perhaps even giving for the wrong reasons. "Christmas in America has become really secular," Kloha said. "Because it was originally a Christian holiday and still is, but now it's all about making money and it's become really commercial."

Holland adds that while the purpose of Christmas is religious, Wal-Mart is obviously not celebrating Jesus. Christmas is ultimately a holiday where one can set all material objects aside and get closer to one's family. For Christians especially it is an opportunity to get closer to one's faith as well.

"It feels like since during Christmas we celebrate Christ coming into the world, we therefore celebrate the family that we have," Holland said. "It's a reassurance that there's this completely unchanging, good aspect of Christianity. People find a lot of examples of the obvious hypocrisy of Christianity as all people live it. It seems to me like this holiday is when we can let the world know that we're Christians and people won't frown at us." ❄️



Mimi Liu



Helen Wiley

## How to make the best turkey ever

Connor Flood  
Reporter

Year in and year out we go to Thanksgiving Break with one thought in our minds: Thanksgiving dinner. The most important part of this feast is obviously the Thanksgiving turkey. Some might call it an art to cooking the turkey properly to achieve a flavorful and moist turkey. But do we really know how to cook our turkey the proper way to get the best taste on that most glorious holiday of Thanksgiving? Here is a fine way to prepare a turkey and maybe surprise a few of your relatives on the not so dry tasting turkey. Recipe is courtesy of Alton Brown.

Ingredients: 1 (14 to 16 pound) frozen young turkey  
For the brine: 1 cup kosher salt, 1/2 cup light brown sugar, 1 gallon vegetable stock, 1 tablespoon black peppercorns, 1 1/2 teaspoons allspice, berries, 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped candied ginger, 1 gallon heavily iced water

For the aromatics: 1 red apple, sliced, 1/2 onion, sliced, 1 cinnamon stick, 1 cup water, 4 sprigs rosemary, 6 leaves of sage, Canola oil

Directions  
2 to 3 days before roasting:

Begin thawing the turkey in the refrigerator or in a cooler kept at 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

Combine the vegetable stock, salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, allspice berries, and candied ginger in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally to

dissolve solids and bring to a boil. Then remove the brine from the heat, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate.

Early on the day or the night before you'd like to eat: Combine the brine, water and ice in the 5-gallon bucket. Place the thawed turkey (with innards removed) breast side down in brine. If necessary, weigh down the bird to ensure it is fully immersed, cover, and refrigerate or set in cool area for 8 to 16 hours, turning the bird once half way through brining.

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Remove the bird from brine and rinse inside and out with cold water. Discard the brine.

Place the bird on roasting rack inside a half sheet pan and pat dry with paper towels.

Combine the apple, onion, cinnamon stick, and 1 cup of water in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Add steeped aromatics to the turkey's cavity along with the rosemary and sage. Tuck the wings underneath the bird and coat the skin liberally with canola oil.

Roast the turkey on lowest level of the oven at 500 degrees F for 30 minutes. Insert a probe thermometer into thickest part of the breast and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Set the thermometer alarm (if available) to 161 degrees F. A 14 to 16 pound bird should require a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours of roasting. Let the turkey rest, loosely covered with foil or a large mixing bowl for 15 minutes before carving.

Lastly, enjoy! ❄️



MCT Campus

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FROM



# Reconnecting with nature, gun in hand



Courtesy of Charlie Blackmore

CHS band teacher Charlie Blackmore poses with a prize deer that he felled while hunting. Although much of the current opinion is opposed to hunting, Blackmore still finds it a rewarding and enjoyable sport, one which he hopes to continue sharing with future generations.

Jonathan Shumway  
Editor

Every year millions of Americans venture into nature, attempting to find the solace and joy that nature offers, and, of course, the wild game in the forest. Hunting season is here once more.

CHS band teacher Charlie Blackmore has been hunting since he was child.

"I was born and raised on a farm, so hunting and fishing was part of the culture growing up," Blackmore said. "Unless there was a varmint, we always shot something for food. My family was very strict about hunting laws so if someone was goofing around with a gun, it was not pretty."

Sophomore Roger Taylor has also been hunting since he was young.

"I started to hunt when I was eight years old," Taylor said. "I would go out for about an hour-and-a-half, and then come back and watch cartoons. When I turned eleven, I started to go out for several hours at a time."

As the years have gone by, the game Blackmore hunts has changed. Although Blackmore did a lot of bird and rabbit hunting as a child, much of the game is now gone, as farms have intruded on the habitats.

"I used to bow-hunt, but I don't have the time I used to do this," Blackmore said. "I hunt mostly now with firearms, rifles and pistols. I have tried hunting turkey, but turkey and white-tailed deer are completely different ball games."

There are many different types of methods involved in hunting, such as using elevated platforms, hiding in camouflaged tents, and calls, but Blackmore still prefers still-hunting.

"I go out early in the morning to the woods, so I am already in the woods when everything is waking up," Blackmore said. "Although my brother can stay in a stand for hours, probably even for days, being in a stand past an hour at a time makes me go crazy. I have to constantly be moving through the forest."

However, the amount of challenges faced in hunting should not be underestimated. Specific game, especially deer, can prove very elusive.

"Although when I was younger I would buy the gun with the biggest bang, I now have moved to pistols and rifles," Blackmore said. "I enjoy pistols as they are especially challenging. I have actually taken down several deer with a pistol. Although I hunt on the land that I grew up on, and I know the land very well, it is amazing how fast deer can disappear as soon as the season starts."

Taylor hunts mainly birds, including ducks and geese, but he

also hunts deer and turkeys. He agrees with Blackmore that there are several challenges that a hunter faces while out in the woods.

"The biggest challenge is the cold and the elements, but it adds fun," Taylor said. "It makes hunting more of an adventure. We have to get out early, being in the blind by six in the morning. We have to walk out when it is still dark outside."

Blackmore recognizes that are some people who are anti-hunting, and understands their view.

"People are entitled to their opinion," Blackmore said. "I care that only people know the facts and are informed. There is a lot of misinformation that people teach as gospel. People need to recognize that it is because of the money spent by hunters that the deer population has been substantiated. As there is in anything, there are both the good hunters and bad hunters. Overall, the hunting community is a good community that supports conservation. When I hunt, I have to make the decision if I have a good shot. I don't want the animal to suffer, so it is a moral decision that the hunter has to take."

Taylor is willing to listen to other's people's opinions about hunting, but he still feels hunting is moral.

"As omnivores, we have been hunting for millions of years," Taylor said. "There are certain aspects in hunting when people do take it too far, but I feel hunting is a spiritual experience, as it's a time where I'm able to talk and hang out with the some of the closest people to me."

Blackmore is grateful, too, for the memories that he has had while hunting.

"I have taken my kids hunting and have passed along the love and tradition," Blackmore said. "I taught my daughter and her husband, and introduced them to hunting. I am fortunate to have gotten some great trophies, but best is introducing others to the sport and watching them enjoying it also."

Taylor enjoys being able to spend time in nature while hunting.

"It is amazing when there are birds everywhere, a thousand geese or ducks, and I say 'Oh my God,'" Taylor said.

Blackmore's advice to wannabe hunters is to take a firearm safety course sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and go out with someone who hunts.

Taylor echoes Blackmore's ideas, but understands the importance of being positive when someone is hunting, confident that they are going to find some deer or birds.

"The joy in hunting is not in taking the animal, but being outside and being able to appreciate nature-- taking in the challenge of hunting," Blackmore said. ☺

## Jobs: the ultimate juggling act

Sarah Tait  
Editor

Students at Clayton High School are more than their title implies: they are athletes, activists, workers, and much more. Students invest their time out of school in all sorts of ways, and while some students elect to play sports or join in clubs, others choose to work.

Many students at CHS have part-time jobs. Whether voluntary or necessary, jobs provide an important source of income for otherwise dependent teens.

Junior Jonathan Matheny, who works as a busser and dish washer at Café Manhattan, is very aware of the rewards of a job.

"A definite benefit of having a job is getting paid," Matheny said. "Right now I'm saving up for college and lacrosse equipment."

Many students find the appeal of making money attractive enough to offset the potential consequences of juggling a job and school. Nevertheless, the two competing responsibilities can present a problem when they conflict.

Senior Shane Sepac works at Crystal Clear Car Wash on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays for four and a half hours at a time.

"The car wash I work at has internet so often I use that internet to do some homework," Sepac said. "It can be distracting, though, when I have to keep interrupting my work to manage the car wash."

Junior Taylor Gold agrees that when work takes over time that would otherwise be dedicated to school work, managing the two commitments can be tricky. Gold works at the Shaw Park Ice Rink during the winter.

"Working during school can be difficult when I want to go out with my friends or I have lots of homework and I don't have a lot of time to do it," Gold said. "I usually just work weekends,

but on Sundays it can be hard to get my work done."

Junior Clair Laufketter also has experienced the inevitable difficulties that come with taking on two very serious responsibilities.

"It's hard when I have to work and I have tests the next day," Laufketter said. Laufketter works as a hostess at Duffy's three to four days a week.

"I can't study at Duffy's, so I try to get all my other homework done there and then study when I get home," Laufketter said.

Though there are some inherent difficulties that come with handling the role of both employee and student, there are also undeniable benefits. Many student workers find that the extra commitment is well worth their time.

"I can handle having a job and going to school pretty well," senior August Turner said. Turner works as a dish washer at Café Manhattan, a busser at I Fratellini, and a busser and deliverer at Bobo.

"I get to make a lot of money and meet a lot of interesting people," Turner said.

Laufketter has also found ways to balance her two responsibilities so that they are compatible with each other.

"Working actually helps me to get my homework done," Laufketter said. "It's usually not too busy so I do homework while I sit there."

Gold, too, has found that working has been a worthy addition to her schedule instead of a burden.

"Work gives me a chance to get a break from hanging out with my friends or doing homework," Gold said. "I get to socialize with my fellow workers and the ice rink is a fun environment to be in."

Part-time jobs may seem too demanding as extra-curricular activities, but they constitute just another part of daily life for many CHS students. For those that have the time, a job can be a rewarding pastime. ☺



Laura Kratcha

Senior Kara Kratcha preps a shirt for dry cleaning at her job. Kratcha, who works at Westway Cleaners, finds commitments easier to juggle if she only works a limited number of weekdays.



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# 'Deathly Hallows' lives up to hype

Movie franchise follows revered book series to the satisfaction of even the most dedicated of Harry Potter fans.

**Maria Massad**  
Editor

Spoiler alert! If you have not yet seen the new Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One," well, you have been warned. Proceed with reading at your own risk.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One" was released this past weekend on Friday, Nov. 19, at the box office. Many Muggles flocked to the theaters this past weekend; in fact, the opening day alone raked in a reported \$61 million, according to mugglenet.com.

As a very dedicated Harry Potter fan, it was unfortunate that I was unable to see the movie at its midnight premiere, but I still was able to watch it on its opening day.

Now, I have read the entire Harry Potter series many times — you really don't want to know exactly how many times I have read the books — and I had high expectations for this movie, especially since Warner Brothers decided to divide the seventh book into two films, in order to make more money and to include more material.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One" was not a disappointment. Actually, the new movie

not only met my expectations, but it actually surpassed them.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One" opened with Voldemort's meeting with his most faithful Death Eaters. I was surprised that this scene followed the book's portrayal of the meeting (almost) exactly. Here, Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) tells his followers that he needs to kill Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) more than ever to continue with his evil plans to rid the world of all Muggles.

Harry, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) spend most of their time in hiding in different, isolated forests throughout the movie, trying to formulate plans to find and then destroy Voldemort's Horcruxes.

In between these forest scenes, action often dominates the screen. Harry's transport to the Burrow at the beginning of the movie, the intrusion into the Ministry of Magic, and the trip to Godric's Hollow provided much contrast from the simple forest scenes.

The depiction of Bathilda Bagshot was totally creepy; she looked absolutely perfect. When Bellatrix began to torture Hermione at the Malfoy Manor, Watson portrayed an especially convincing Hermione

in pain.



Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, from left, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger star in Warner Bros. Pictures' fantasy adventure, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

This movie definitely was more serious than the previous six. Although some comic relief was provided by the hilarious Fred and George and the adorable, Harry-worshipping Dobby, the majority of the film took on a more solemn tone, especially during scenes in which several characters die and when Ron, tired of being ignored by Harry and Hermione, leaves the two.

Also more prevalent in this movie

was the romantic tension between the characters. Ron is more adoring of Hermione than ever, and Harry and Ginny share a kiss. However, Ron becomes jealous of the Harry-Hermione bond, and leaves them for a period in the movie.

Actually, there is no romantic tension between Harry and Hermione at all. Even when Harry tries to help Hermione forget her depression and longing for the absent Ron by dancing with her, it is clear that

they are just developing a "brother-sister" bond. The scene would have been a nice tribute to friendship, but the audience murmured audible "Aww"s. The depiction of Harry and Hermione as a couple is just sickening, and that audience should be ashamed of themselves for trying to make Hermione and Harry's friendship into something more.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One" also was more artsy than the previous films. The di-

rector, David Yates, chose to illuminate the English countryside in several beautiful shots. The animation of "The Tale of the Three Brothers" was very picturesque as well.

It was great that the movie followed the book as well as it did, and I'm sure that any passionate Potter fan would agree.

The beginning of the end was absolutely fantastic. Let the countdown to the release of the second part begin! ☺



## Students express interest in more meaningful music

**Sri Panth**  
Reporter

Transport yourself back to the days of The Beatles and their huge crowds (especially women) going crazy wherever they performed. They are still one of the most well known bands even after their break-up in 1970. Fast-forward 12 years to 1982, when Michael Jackson released his "Thriller" album and became a worldwide pop sensation. Now, take yourself to the next decade, in which Beck Hansen created the song "Loser," which is now considered to be one of the top 30 songs from the 1990s, according to VH1 Top 100 Songs of the '90s.

Fast-forward another 20 years, and enter the era of glam-pop, which includes such artists Justin Bieber, Ke\$ha, and Katy Perry. The public seems to like them, but their popularity seems to be declining, while "oldies" musicians are returning to the limelight: Paul McCartney, Robert Plant, Michael Jackson, Pat Benetar, and more.

"All these pop singers nowadays, they just don't want to change the way we think," metal and rock fan freshman Graham Nickelson said. "All they really care about is money, money, money. You hear of all these big record deals, but you never hear of how someone's music started a cult or a protest for what that group of people believes in."

Although protests and riots are not particularly good, they still show that an idea that

is from a song has affected society. Today, one often does not hear of such things, since the mindset of today is different than that of the twentieth century.

"Society has always been based around money, more so now than back then," lead guitarist of published band Pinkleaf Henry Zimmerman said. "Back in the oldies time period, you could sell a few bad albums but still be star. Now, if you sink in the charts, you could risk losing your fans and eventually your career. That's why artists can't really be too focused on 'influencing society.' After all, this is a business, and when you run a business, you can't afford to be distracted."

Indeed, some of the respondents did in fact like modern music instead of older music; they were Justin Bieber fans. One even loved Irish soft rock band The Script.

However, the decreases in popularity may not be because modern pop does not impact society. According to a poll recently conducted, respondents said they preferred listening to older bands simply because they thought that modern pop music was boring.

"It's fun to listen to at first, but then it grows tedious after a while," freshman Sorrell Lindsay said. "Every artist uses the same style for every song, which really irritates me."

Most of the CHS student survey respondents agreed that music needs to change in order to send a good message to Americans.

"Musicians should start to impact society," Nickelson said. ☺

"All these pop singers nowadays, they just don't want to change the way we think."

**Graham Nickelson**  
Freshman

## Fifty thousand words to write

**Kara Kratcha**  
A&E Editor

I have spent the beginning of this month avoiding two questions: first, "Are you really writing a novel?" And, after I have reluctantly answered in the affirmative, "What's it about?"

It's November, which means, for thousands of participants, National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo for short. The goal is to write 50,000 words in on month—that's 1,667 words every day for 30 days. Accomplishing this feat makes you a "winner" of NaNoWriMo.

So why am I so squeamish about revealing my novel-writing aspirations? My friends tell me that even attempting to write a novel at all is something admirable, even something about which to brag. Yet I can't help but feel that any high schooler going around touting the fact that she's in the process of creating some great work will sound irrevocably pretentious. Besides, admitting that, yes, I am writing a novel leads to the in-

evitable second question, and I am finding that explaining my plot is even harder than denying my literary activity.

I am of the opinion that to paraphrase any literary work is impossible and have often found this problematic when asked to summarize for an assignment.

Summarizing my own work, especially when it's unfinished and completely tangled from being written so quickly, is even more impossible. I think that written works are best appreciated in their purest form, that is, read, but I don't really want anyone to read what I've written.

I do think that fast-paced, high-pressure writing is the best way for an amateur writer to start off. Let me tell you something about NaNo novels: they suck. All of them. No one can write a good novel in 30 days. So what NaNo does is level the playing field. The greatest challenge is not

writing a meaningful, coherent story, but rather to reach the daily word quota, to just finish. The pep-talk writers, published authors who send out mass email to encourage participants to keep writing, constantly urge writers to just write something now and edit later.

The little kid in me, whose mother told her over and over again that nothing is perfect, really likes that concept. Just as no NaNo novel ends up perfect at the end of the month, no regular novel starts off perfect in its first draft. Authors, to borrow from teen-lit author Maureen Johnson, would spend their entire careers revising just one book if publishers would let them. That sort of perfectionism could easily intimidate a writer into never even pushing past the first hundred words.

Maybe I'm crazy for attempting to "win" NaNoWriMo. As a senior on the Speech and Debate team, November is the busiest month of the year. Right now, it's paining me to devote 500-plus words to something other than my novel (right now I'm my word count is around 21,000, but I should be closer to 30,000). But before I end, let me answer a few more pesky questions: no, I'm not going to try to get this publish. No, you can't read my novel. And, no, I'm still not going to tell you what my novel's about. ☺

### Blots and Scribbles



Kara Kratcha

## Adjusting to the high school setting

Continued from pg. 13

said. "I met a lot of homeschooled kids and, like I said, I'm in Homeschool Network, so there's a lot of other teenagers in there. I hang out with a lot of kids who go to school now that I've met through art classes, sports, and I went to Clayton with kids, obviously, so a lot of them. I don't feel like I have social isolation, but I could see how it could be a problem for a lot of homeschooled kids."

Lindblad, on the other hand, felt a lot of social isolation while he was homeschooled.

"When you're homeschooled it's really socially isolating," Lindblad said. "Like, you don't get to see people very often and it can get really depressing... It's kind of frustrating because the homeschooling groups weren't my type of people because a lot of people that are homeschooling are homeschooling because they're socially awkward or have some kind of disability that would cause them not to be able to do social interaction very well."

Lindblad was also concerned that it would be difficult for him to get into college as a homeschooled student.

"Colleges are starting to recognize homeschoolers more and more as time goes on," Lindblad said. "But it isn't a huge amount of colleges who do that and is a lot better on the transcript to say, 'Here's this absolute proof that I took this accredited program and I got this high of a grade and it's an AP class.'"

On the College Board website they write that homeschoolers

are presented with many problems in the admissions process, including where they can get college recommendations if their parents are their teachers:

"In general, home-schooled students follow the same college admission process as students in public or private schools. However,

"When you're homeschooled, it's really socially isolating. You don't get to see people very often and it can get really depressing."

**Jonah Lindblad**  
Sophomore

er, they may have to fulfill some extra requirements... Some colleges admit many homeschooled students; others do not."

In addition to these problems, Lindblad found it difficult to find secular science programs and networks for nonreligious homeschooled students.

"It was really annoying because the teachers weren't supposed to teach anything religious, but they would do it anyway because of how many in the classes believed that themselves," Lindblad said. "I really kind of felt like a minority by not being religious, except for a few places where I found other nonreligious homeschoolers, but I had to look for something specifically."

Wilkinson has also noticed a dearth of science programs that teach evolution for homeschooled kids.

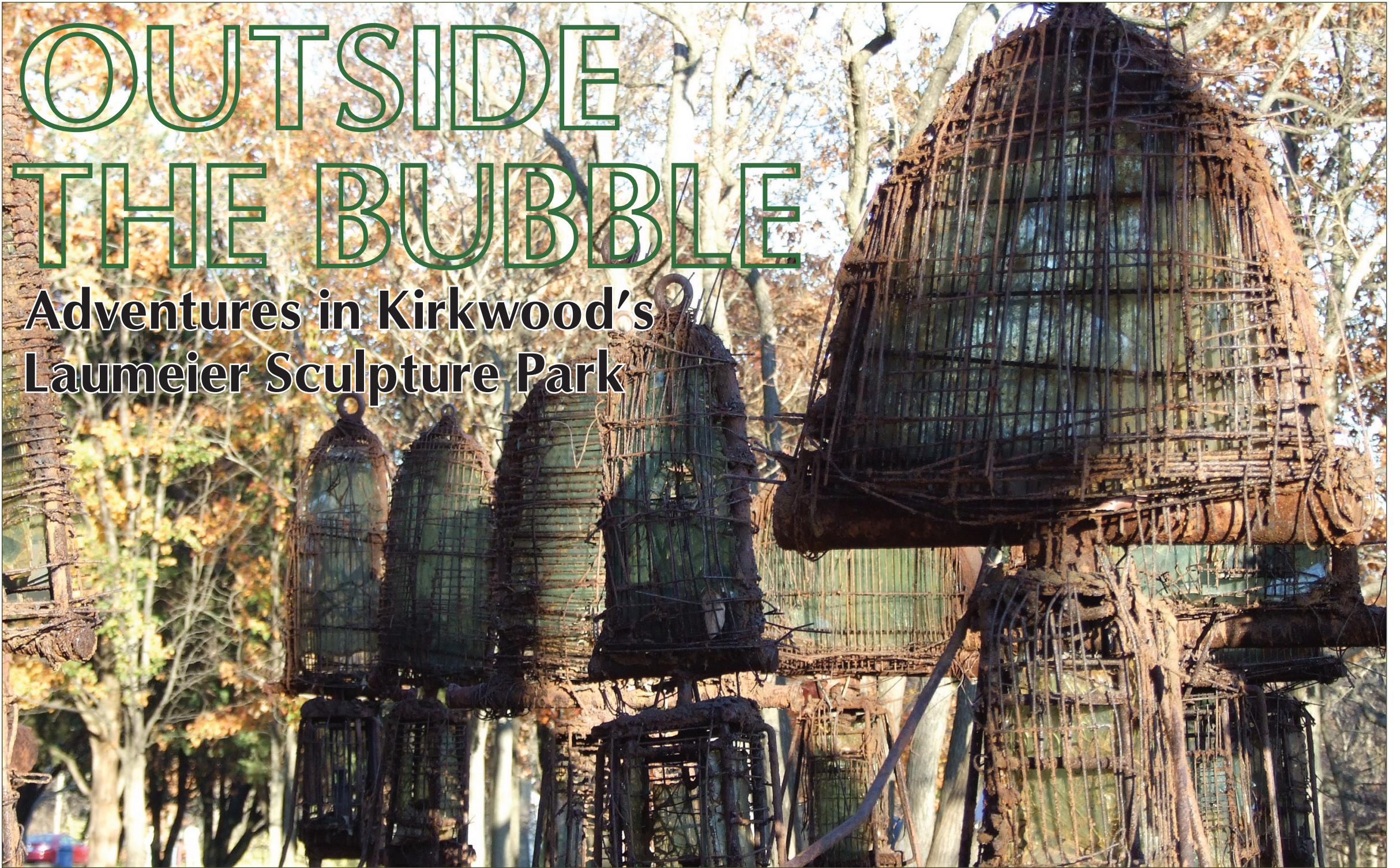
"I know lots of kids who have learned science from a religious-based program and it's not exactly science in my book," Wilkinson said. "So, especially for science, it's hard to find curriculums that aren't based around religion."

Although they've had similar experiences, Wilkinson still feels that she's made the right decision and Lindblad has been happy to become an active part of the CHS community. ☺



# OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

## Adventures in Kirkwood's Laumeier Sculpture Park

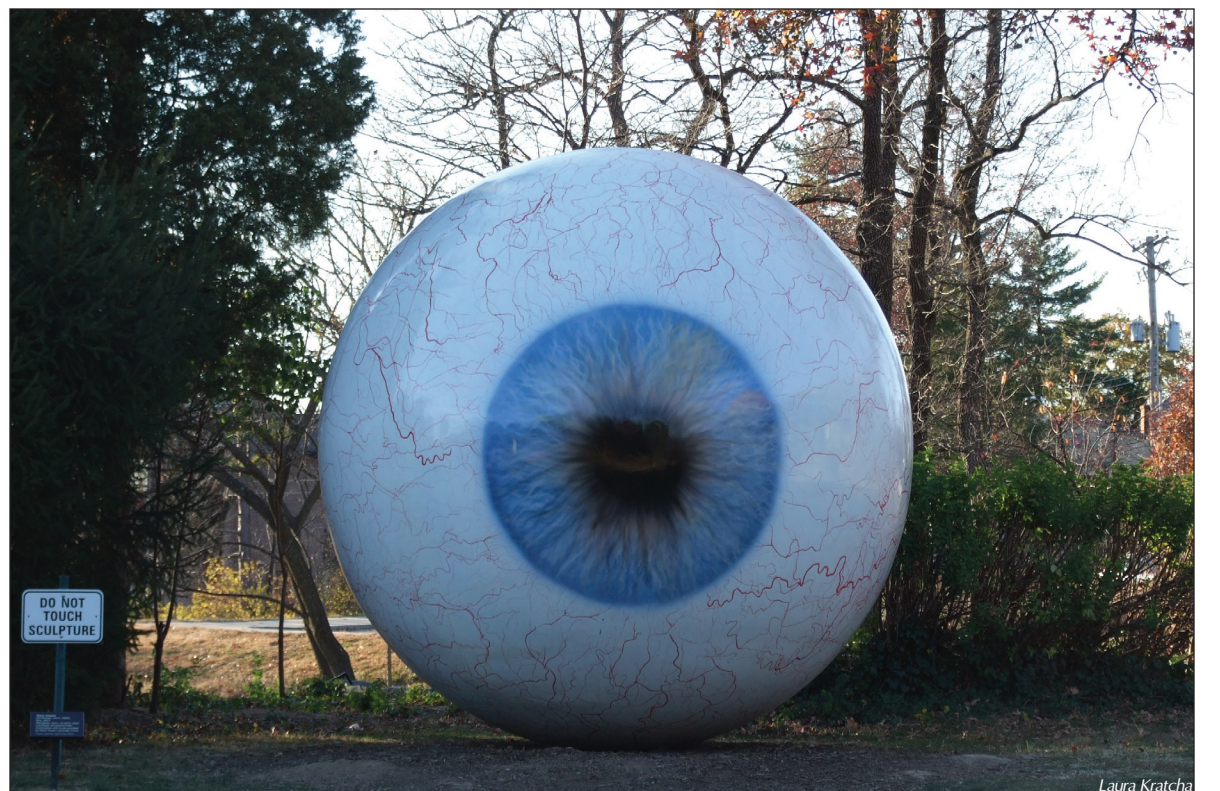


Laura Kratcha



Laura Kratcha

**TOP:** Artist Ronald Gonzalez's 'Birds Fly Through Us, Arches,' 2000. This sculpture is a representation of the horrors experienced by the stranded victims of the Holocaust. **LEFT:** 'Ricardo Cat' by artist Niki de Saint Phalle. The mosaic cat is an interactive sculpture. The cat is also a bench with windows. **BELOW TOP:** Tony Tasset, 'Eye,' 2007. This giant eye can be found in the park's Museum Circle. **BELOW RIGHT:** Jonathan Borofsky, 'Man with Briefcase at #2968443,' 1986, is on loan courtesy of the artist and Paula Cooper Gallery in New York. The sculpture is located immediately behind the park's parking lot. **BELOW LEFT:** Robert Stackhouse, 'St. Louis Bones,' 1987. This piece is located in Way Field.



Laura Kratcha



Laura Kratcha



Laura Kratcha

**Kara Kratcha**  
A&E Editor

Kirkwood's streetlight banners encourage visitors to "Eat, Shop, Stroll," and those are exactly the activities one should take advantage of on Kirkwood's main thoroughfare.

Lined with small shops and restaurants, the intersection of E. Argonne Drive and Taylor Avenue, the site of Kirkwood's Farmers Market, which features locally grown produce in the summer and early fall and a Christmas market in November and December. The area also features a set of picturesque train tracks and, according to the Farmers Market's website, over 300 local businesses.

In addition to the Farmers Market, several other festivals and outdoor community gatherings take place annually in Kirkwood. The Festival of Food and Flowers, which happens in May, features free flowers, gardening advice, an art show, and cooking demonstrations.

Concerts are performed at the Kirkwood Station Plaza throughout the summer in the Summer Concert Series, while Tunes at Ten showcases local bands on Saturdays at the Farmer's Market.

Coming up soon, the Holiday Walk (Nov. 20) provides ideas for

holiday decoration and entertaining, allows visitors to ride on the Holiday Trolley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is a photo opportunity with Mr. and Mrs. Claus from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many of the featured specialty stores will offer free drinks and refreshments as a special offer.

For the small adventuring Claytonite, check out The Magic House for a huge selection of kid-sized activities and fun learning experiences, including a replica of the Oval Office and an electrostatic generator that will make your hair literally stand on end.

The frugal high schooler will appreciate Plato's Closet, a second hand store that carries brands and styles geared specifically at teenagers.

Kirkwood is also a permanent home to the visual arts. Clayton students should take the opportunity to spend these last few weeks of fall weather to be outside, and Kirkwood presents an ideal opportunity. Located just a few minutes from the Farmers Market, Laumeier Sculpture Park is a 15-acre open-air museum.

The park features over 100 sculptures and an indoor exhibit. The mission of the park is "to initiate a lifelong process of cultural awareness, enrich lives, and inspire creative thinking by engaging people in experiences of sculpture and nature simultaneously."

The park manages to do just that,

particularly merge the arts and the outdoors, in ways that other museums cannot. Art classes are offered for children and adults year round, and children ages 4-16 years can participate in Art Camp during the summer.

Until Jan. 9, the park will feature artist Ahmet Ögüt, a Turkish artist based in Amsterdam. His pieces include a room of staged photos including a sign reading "Warning: this area is under 23 hour video and audio surveillance," an entire room's floor covered by nothing but raw asphalt, and a set of slide projectors exhibiting pictures of the artist converting two cars into a police car and a taxi using colored magnets.

Whether the visitor grasps the full political implications of these pieces (I certainly didn't), the art's off-beat humor will certainly tickle the viewer.

Kirkwood is a place for lovers of the outdoors and community. The excellent outside shopping, walking and dining opportunities are abundant.

Citizens of Clayton should venture outside the bubble to Kirkwood for its laid-back atmosphere, clear dedication to the arts and focus on neighborhood feel.

Additional information from [downtownkirkwood.com](http://downtownkirkwood.com) and [laumeiersculpturepark.org](http://laumeiersculpturepark.org).





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## Monaé dominates Of Montreal concert with voice, charisma

Andie Glik  
Reporter

Imagine that you are floating through space, spiraling towards a distant planet. This planet is shooting out neon colors, mysterious shapes, and large amounts of snow white feathers to welcome you. As you inch closer to landing, you see what appears to be a massive rampage of overindulgent creatures.

Some are drenched in silver, and wave their sparkling lobster claws in the air. Others dance around a beautiful woman in an android helmet who opens her mouth and lets out the most powerful voice you have ever heard. This is about the time when the sky opens and a man, wearing nothing but woman's clothing and blue cowboy boots, floats down.

If you can try to picture this in your head, you will only be able to understand a small amount of what the Of Montreal concert, with Janelle Monáe, was like. In past concerts, Of Montreal has been known for over the top costumes, giant screens playing images that make no sense, and spraying shaving cream into the crowd. They are a band that knows how to complement their abnormal music with a performance to match.

This is all thanks to the dark and complicated mind of Kevin Barnes, the lead singer of Of Montreal. While the rest of the band stayed in the back corners of the stage, Barnes leapt around in his woman's apron and interacted with the dancers in their various costumes. The term costume is used very loosely. Some of the attire included paper maché fish heads, with robot arms and metal pipe legs. Each time a new character

walked on stage, the feeling of a bad acid trip became more and more evident. While the Of Montreal part of the concert left many feeling like that had just walked out of a bad dream, it was Janelle Monáe who saved the concert.

She was the opening act for Of Montreal and began her show with a television announcement. The video was of her, dressed in an android helmet, informing the crowd about far off galaxies and the misconceptions humans have about robots. Then three women dressed in hooded capes walked on stage. One of them revealed herself as Monáe and let out

a voice normally reserved for angels. Dressed in high-waisted black tuxedo pants, and a white button-down with giant puffy sleeves, Monáe danced around stage with so much energy and talent that the whole crowd moved with her. For such a small, delicate woman, Monáe lets out a voice that makes one think back to Janis Joplin or Aretha Franklin.

Everything about Monáe's performance was far better than Of Montreal's. Her backup band was full of energy and was actually getting into the music while Barnes' band either looked bored or as equally disturbed by what was taking place on stage as the crowd. The dancers from Of Montreal crawled around the age showing hardly any talent besides a few contortionist acts while Monáe's two dancers pranced around the stage and perfectly complemented Monáe's performance.

As you wave goodbye to the planet you have just visited, you leave with Janelle Monáe's voice echoing in your head, and images of Kevin Barnes trapped in a golden cage with a woman dressed as a pig still in your mind. It was quite an adventure you think to yourself, one you never want to go on again.



## Chinese documentary shows cost of economic development

As they fuel Chinese economic growth, migrant workers pay a high price in terms of family and individual dreams.

Philip Zhang  
Editor

Lixin Fan's "Last Train Home" is a moving documentary that explores the rapidly changing social landscape in modern China.

The opening scene is a noisy sea of people jam-packed in a train station. Subtitle fades in and says that 130 million migrant workers return from industrial cities to their homes in the countryside during the Chinese New Year – the largest human migration in the world.

The overwhelming statistics and shots of crowds of people may make it seem like another one of those documentaries about China's booming economy, one that is commonly seen on PBS or the History Channel. However, the film then gets personal and zooms in on a married couple in the crowd: the Zhangs, a migrant worker family whose life Fan had been documenting for three years.

Changhua Zhang and Suqin Chen have been factory workers in Guangzhou for 15 years. They are very poor and struggle to earn money to support their family: stitching together garments during the day, returning to their tiny shared dormitory at night, and visiting their children in their homes only once a year during the Chinese New Year. Their high school-age daughter Qin Zhang lives hundreds of miles away with her grandma in a rural village of Sichuan province.

Changhua and Suqin clearly want a better life for their daughter, and they firmly believe that the only path to that goal is education. Thus, they constantly push their daughter to achieve academically. However, since Qin was raised by her grandma and had little emotional connection to her distant parents, words of criticism from her parents are unconvincing and difficult to accept.

Qin gradually grows apart from her family. She drops out of school, leaves her hometown, which she describes as a "sad place," and follows her parents' steps to become a factory worker in the city. Although factory work is demanding, she enjoys her newly-gained independence.

The life in the city is simply thrilling. She goes to huge shopping malls over the weekend, is treated like a princess in the hair salon, and does things that she could have never done in her village. She is like a kid in a candy store, a kid who has never had candy in her whole life.

The film raises interesting questions about the complicated social scene in China. Is the sacrifice that parents like Qin's make for their children worth it? Are children grateful for their parents' hard work? Do young people like Qin have the right to pursue independence? As technology advances and communication tools like the television and the cell phone become more prevalent, people in the rural villages are no longer oblivious of what life is like in the big cities.

The film was also beautifully edited to carry its message. Qin later finds a new job as a cocktail waitress. Toward the end of the film, screen shots were switched back and forth between the electrifying dance club where Qin

works and the lifeless factory where Qin's parents work. This juxtaposition of dramatically different lifestyles paints a realistic picture of the distance between the two generations.

Nowadays, China is often portrayed as an emerging world super power by the mainstream media, commonly identified with the glories of international events like the Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai World Expo. Indeed, the standard of living has risen significantly in the past 30 years.

However, scenes of the horrible living conditions of Qin's parents, the chaotic train stations, and the conflict in the Zhang family indicate that life is far from perfect. It is ironic that

the condition of migrant workers has often been ignored in the mainstream media. Migrant workers are the fuel to China's economic growth. Without them, Olympic venues like the Bird Nest would not have been built in time for the games.

Perhaps more important than the question of who migrant workers are, is what do the migrant workers want. As more people like Qin enter the sprawling cities, people are not going to be contented with simply fueling the booming economy; they want to be a part of it.



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# On Target

• This season's "Community" has gone past quirky to "just too weird to be believed".


• "Bones" needs a healthy dose of calcium to beef up its dialogue and smooth out its overly contrived plotlines.

• The newest installment of "Harry Potter" excels, capturing the feeling of the book and leaving the audience with an enticing cliff-hanger.

• Who knew Gwyneth Paltrow could actually sing and dance as recently exhibited as a guest on "Glee"?

• Taylor Swift's "surprised" expression when she wins an award she knew she was going to win is just too much.

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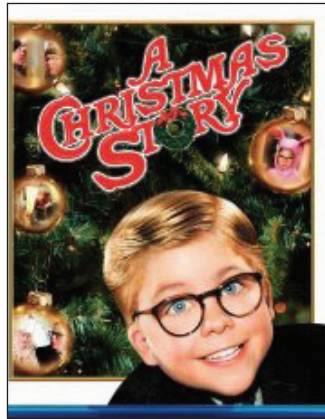
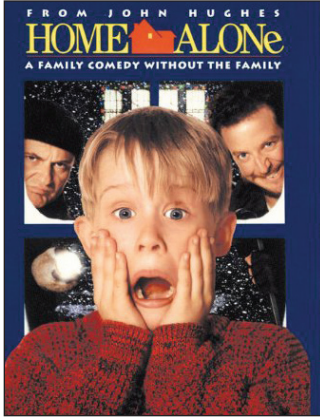


# Cinematic classics add to holiday cheer

The winter holiday season can be a time of gift giving, family gathering and also movie watching. Here are the top 10 holiday movies chosen by CHS students in a recent poll.

By Steven Zou

On the top of the list is "Home Alone." "Home Alone" stars Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, and Daniel Stern. 9-year-old Kevin McCallister (Culkin) accidentally gets left behind when his family leaves for Christmas Vacation. Now it is his job to fend off the robbers (Stern and Pesci) who try to take over his house. The humor of the plot comes from Kevin's trickiness and the robbers' dumbness. This is a must-see with friends or family when you want to get a kick out of Christmas.



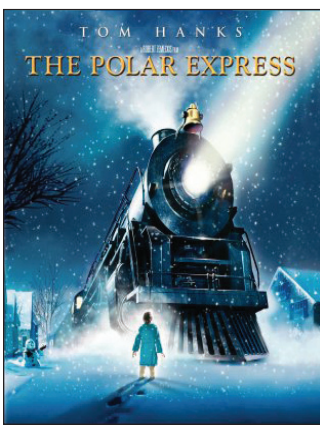
Number six is the 1980's "A Christmas Story." The wonderful cast includes Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon. Ralphie (Billingsley), who is an elementary school kid, is obsessed with a toy BB gun and he begs his parents, teacher, and Santa Claus for it. But they all say the same thing: "you will shoot your eyes out." This movie shows a lot of the post-WWII lifestyle with a lot of humor. This is recommended for the family on Christmas Day.

"Elf", starring Will Ferrell, Zoey Deschanel, and James Caan, comes in second. Buddy (Ferrell), who is actually human, winds up in the North Pole and is raised by elves. He decides to visit his real father (Caan) in New York City where he meets a girl who plays an elf in a department store (Deschanel) and falls in love with her. His father does not appreciate Buddy as his son. Can Buddy bring the Christmas spirit back to his father and save Christmas? This is a good Christmas movie to spice up your holiday mood.



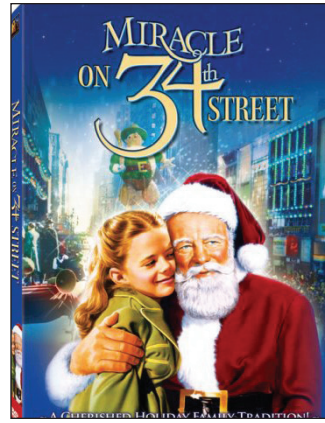
Lucky number seven is National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation." The movie features Chevy Chase. Clark Griswold (Chase) wants to have the perfect Christmas with his family, but he ends up with his whole extended family at his house. On top of that, he is eagerly awaiting for a Christmas bonus from his boss so he can build his dream swimming pool. A hilarious look at overdoing the holidays, this movie is recommended for kids over 13 because of language and some partial nudity.

Number three is "The Polar Express." This animated movie stars the voice of Tom Hanks, who plays many characters in the movie. On the night before Christmas, a young boy, who is struggling with whether he still believes in Santa, is fast asleep when all of a sudden a magical train comes up right in front of his house and he boards the train that is headed for the North Pole to meet Santa. Although this movie does not have a lot of humor in it, it is a nostalgic and tender look at belief in the real meaning of the holiday season.



Number eight is "Four Christmases," starring Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. Brad (Vaughn) and Kate (Witherspoon) decide to never get married because both their parents are divorced. They plan to spend their Christmas on vacation, but that plan is delayed and they are forced to celebrate four Christmases with each of their parents all in one day. This funny movie shows why you should start a family and not let outside factors ruin your relationship. Great for kids older than 13 because it of some inappropriate actions.

Next up is the newer version of "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas." The movie stars the always funny Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen. Christmas is always a big deal for the citizens in Whoville, except for the Grinch (Carrey), who lives alone, and has a heart "two sizes too small." The Grinch always ruins Christmas for the Whos, until little Cindy Lou (Momsen) decides to help the Grinch get his Christmas spirit back. It shows how no one should miss the fun of Christmas. Share it with family members who lack holiday spirit.



Number nine is "Miracle on 34th Street." This classic movie stars Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara and a very young Natalie Wood. Macy's has just hired Kris Kringle (Gwenn) as the new Santa Claus. Kris claims that he is the real deal, and that is a problem for his boss, Doris Walker (O'Hara), who does not want her daughter to believe in Santa Claus. Things go from bad to worse when Kris is declared insane and is put on trial to see if there is really a Santa Claus. This 1947 classic captures the magic and wonder of Christmas. See it.

In the middle of the list, is the old classic "It's a Wonderful Life," starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. George (Stewart) wants to tour the world, but things go bad for him. When his father dies, George gives up his dreams to stay home and run his father's bank. But he has problems and is wondering if he should have ever been born. An angel comes to show him what life would really be like without him. This movie reminds us that life is really good despite all our problems. This is a must-see every Christmas season.



Rounding out our list is the hilarious "Jingle All The Way", starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad. Howard Langston (Schwarzenegger) has promised his son a Turbo Man at the last minute before Christmas, not knowing that it is the hottest toy of the season. Along the way, he meets an overly stressed out mailman (Sinbad) who is also trying to get a Turbo Man. This movie warns how you should never do last-minute shopping. Also, it is a good movie for anyone who likes to laugh a lot.



Jonah Hill voices Tighen in DreamWorks Animation's "Megamind," released by Paramount on Nov. 5, 2010.

## 'Megamind' impresses, freshens up familiar plot

Star-studded animated film grosses \$47.7 million its first weekend.

Steven Paster Reporter

Animated films aren't just entertaining for kids anymore. "Megamind" provides a form of entertainment enjoyable to everyone in the family; to parents and children of all ages.

"Megamind" gives us a new version of the classic battle of good versus evil, hero versus villain. With the villain, Megamind, having successfully annihilated his nemesis Metro Man, Megamind becomes bored and seeks purpose in his world.

In order to fill this empty hole, he decides to create a new hero, Tighen. However, Tighen's intentions become evil and now he is after the people who treated him with disrespect when he was without powers, namely his coworker whom he had a crush on, Roxanne.

While fighting conflicting ideas of being good and evil, Megamind, armed with superior intelligence and advanced technology, must stop the "hero" he created.

One new concept added to the good and evil story is not just that good will always prevail (which has

gotten to be quite old and predictable), but that those that have done bad are capable of doing good and moving on in the right direction. This was a very enjoyable new spin to the story of hero versus villain.

With great performances from Will Ferrell as Megamind and Brad Pitt as Metro Man, Jonah Hill delivers a wonderful performance playing as the created "hero," Tighen. Taking on a very different role than usual, Jonah Hill truly brings the animated character to life. While initially the other big names such as Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt, and Tina Fey, all alongside his name on the credits, seem to draw more attention than Jonah's, by the time the movie ends, the entire theatre will be searching for the name next to Tighen.

It seems that as time passes, animated films seem to gain quality in their picture. This film does not disappoint. The graphics in this film are very well done, with plenty of attention to detail.

"Megamind" is a great movie that is worth forcing everyone into the van to get there. With great performances all around, and a new twist to the hero versus villain classic, this is one movie that you should not miss.

"While fighting conflicting ideas of good and evil, Megamind, armed with superior intelligence and advanced technology, must stop the 'hero' he created."

Steven Paster Reporter

# Acclaimed rapper's release from jail grabs headlines, prompts nationwide celebrations by his supporters

Nina Murov Reporter

You can call him Weezy, Young Carter, Birdman Jr. or simply just Wayne. But no matter what you call him, the famous 27-year old rapper Lil Wayne is, as thousands of people exclaimed around the country on Nov. 4, "Free at last."

Lil Wayne, born Dwayne Carter Jr., was sentenced to a year in prison for illegal gun possession on Feb. 9, 2010. The native New Orleans rapper became a huge star back in 2004 for his album "The Carter."

His unique voice and look have helped him run the rap industry for the past seven years, which is why all of his fans were devastated when they heard that he was going to jail.

Although he was not physically around, he most certainly was not forgotten. In fact, Lil Wayne's album sales went up on iTunes while he was in jail. One could walk around

Clayton High School and see one or two people wearing "Free Weezy" t-shirts. The t-shirts have his mug shot on it, and under the picture, it reads in bright red, "Free Weezy."

The t-shirts weren't the only type of object being sold for the Free Weezy campaign; there were also hats, mugs, bracelets and even playing cards.

If the Free Weezy goods weren't enough, in September of 2010, Lil Wayne's much anticipated album "I am not a human being" was released. Additionally, music videos like Eminem's song featuring Lil Wayne, "No Love" were released.

"Reps" for Lil Wayne said that he shot seven music videos before being sentenced. In other words, it was nearly impossible for Lil Wayne to not be on fans' minds.

Senior Kevin Brockmann said he has been a fan of Weezy for four years.

"He shouldn't have gone to jail,"

Brockmann said. "Rappers in the industry are targeted because of what they put in their songs, by gangs and other rappers. It's not like Lil Wayne shot anyone, it was for self defense."

Sophomore Meg Sutter agrees.

"I love Lil Wayne," Sutter said. "He didn't deserve to go to jail. I mean he's famous and you never know what will happen. But in a way it's good that he went to jail because now he will have a crazy good album coming out."

But not every CHS student feels the love for Weezy.

"All of my friends listen to him, but I really don't. I just don't care," sophomore Rosie Kopman said.

Junior Michaela Idleburg likes Lil Wayne, but thinks his punishment is fair.

"I do think he deserved to go to jail because he did have a loaded weapon when he shouldn't have," Idleburg said.

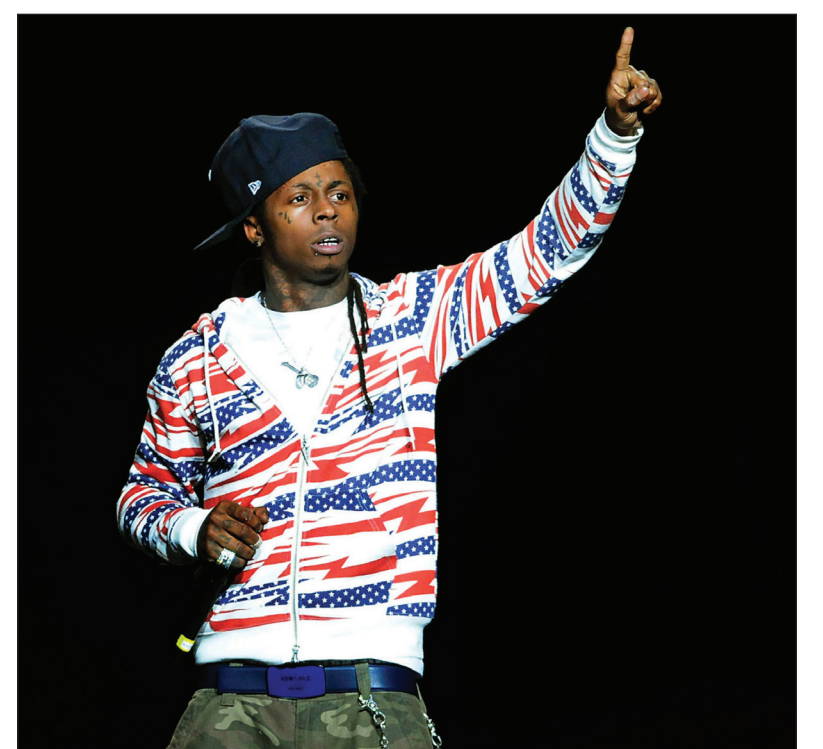
Fan or not, Nov. 4 was a big day.

Wayne's supporters were definitely excited when the rapper was finally released, evidenced by the multiple facebook statuses, entertainment magazines and online gossip websites which reported, "WEEZY IS FREE."

The rapper intended on wasting no time. Just three days after getting out of jail, he surprised his fellow rapper Drake on stage at a concert in Las Vegas.

For now, Lil Wayne is on probation, and the terms are that he may not consume or drink any substance containing alcohol for the next 36 months, and is prohibited from associating with anyone engaged in criminal activity, anyone with a criminal record, and must submit to random drug and alcohol testing.

But in his fans' minds, he is totally and completely free. As he tweeted only a couple hours after being released, "aaaaaaahhhhhmmmmmm baaaaakkkkkkkkkkk!"



Lil Wayne performs during the "Lil Wayne: I Am Music World Tour" at Time Warner Cable Arena in Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 2, 2009.



# Talking Points: Embrace or detest winter?

Ice, snow, hot chocolate, and everything in between.  
Who will embrace the coming season?

## Abhor Adore

Caitlin Kropp  
Features Editor

Winter is the worst season ever.  
Don't deny it.

How anyone could defend this wasteland of a season is beyond me. In addition to the horrible weather, the stress of the holidays and the general seasonal depression is enough to drive even the sanest of winter-goers over the edge.

Think about it for a second. Why do we even need a winter? Since ancient times, winter has been associated with death and depression. Winter, to ancient farmers, represented the time when crops withered and died from cold and nothing could be done to sustain the family. Did I mention that the ancient Greeks also associated winter with the time when Persephone was forced to live with Hades in the underworld every year, causing her mother, Demeter, the goddess of crops, to become horribly depressed and pretty much let everyone starve?

That, to me, does not sound like the ideal season.

Everything bad is made all the worse during the winter months. Commonplace water puddles become centers of frozen death, capable of sending a car, a bike, or even a pedestrian skidding across the pavement. Rolling blackouts, instead of being a minor inconvenience, actually force people from their homes, due to the extreme cold, cold so bad that it can freeze the water in a fish bowl solid. Don't believe me? Ask my sister's friend; it actually happened to her. Poor Swimmy, we hardly knew thee.

But winter doesn't stop there. It insists on continuing its awful reputation by embarrassing the living daylights out of everyone who dares to have fun with winter sports.

As if sports weren't already humiliation enough, you have to add winter in. And with winter comes slippery, wet, icy cold substances that make sports all the harder and more humiliating. Skiing and snowboarding are pretty much death traps on sticks. Honestly, who would enjoy willfully throwing oneself down an icy mountain on a piece of wood? And we can't forget hockey, the scariest, possibly most violent game ever. If the hard rubber pucks and wooden sticks won't kill you, the ice skates or the other players most likely will.

Then, of course, we can't forget about the social "delights" of the winter season.

Holiday shopping! How could I have forgotten about holiday shopping? It's so magical... until the moms start fighting over the last Elmo doll. Need I say more? The supposedly magical time of year, when children's dreams of toys come true, are really a thin veneer for the viciousness and desperation that rear their ugly heads every winter season. Where is the charity? Where is the compassion? Where is the sanity? WHERE is that two-dollar coupon for pepper spray?

Did you know that people get legitimately depressed during winter? It's a scientifically proven phenomenon. The affliction is called Seasonal Affective Disorder and has been studied and classified as an actual type of depression. With the onset of winter, people who have normal mental health throughout the year, and yet suffer from this disorder (SAD for short... fitting, no?) experience all the usual depression symptoms: irritability, over sleeping, lack of energy, and pessimistic feelings of hopelessness. If there's a treatment plan for this (I'm thinking an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii might help), sign me up. I'm clearly suffering from SAD. I've got the winter blues.

Finally, the worst part of any winter season: the weather. Winter can be best described as cold and wet, two of my least favorite weather patterns. Don't be fooled by the seemingly perfect icicle formations and powdery drifts of snow. They are both just massive globs of cold, wet awfulness. Just forget it. You're better off just hiring a person to hit you repeatedly over the head with a sledgehammer. The cold sneaks up on you, luring those who dare to venture outside into a sense of false security before unleashing hypothermia.

Once we've hit the months of December and January I don't even bother venturing outside unless absolutely necessary. The high is normally around 10 degrees Fahrenheit, and, with wind chill, it generally dips below zero. On a good day. When the sun is out.

I can't handle it. I can't function in the cold. All I can think about is how cold and miserable and in pain I am.

In conclusion, winter is the worst, most useless season that has ever existed on this planet. It is the bane of my existence, and I hate it with a fiery passion that is only rivaled by my intense fear of power tools and axe murderers.

But that is beside the point. Ultimately, I think we should take it to a vote. I propose that we abolish winter once and for all. We should just go straight from autumn to spring, no cold, no misery, and no banes of existence. Who's with me? ☺

"Everything bad is made all the worse during the winter months. Commonplace water puddles become centers of frozen death, capable of sending a car, a bike, or even a pedestrian skidding across the pavement."

Kara Kratcha  
A&E Editor

Almost every day at work, at least one customer comes and sighs, "I guess it's cold for good now." My perhaps befuddling response? "I know. Finally."

Winter is the best season for many reasons. First of all, consider winter's seasonal foil: summer. I don't know if you've ever had the absolute displeasure of taking

gym class during the summer, so let me enlighten you about that experience. Students in my class had to run drills on Gay field in mid-summer St. Louis heat and humidity.

The weather was so awfully hot that my vision tunneled and I almost passed out. This medical near emergency was not the fault of the gym class but rather the weather in which it took place. St. Louis summers are dangerous and should probably be discontinued for everyone's safety.

Perhaps not everyone is as susceptible to humidity as I am. Still, physical activity seems much easier in the cold weather. Athletes sweat considerably less, which is a definite plus, and have better endurance when the heat is not dragging them down. I was fortunate to witness the first meeting of the Winter Running Club, and its members looked, in my humble opinion, quite pleased to be running in the newly cooling weather.

So maybe winter makes a lot of people stay inside. Perhaps that's a good thing, though. Upon the arrival of warm weather in the spring, students can hardly focus on their schoolwork. Whether you like school or not, it's a necessary part of the teenage life. Isn't it better to stay focused with the cold weather for most of the year than to be distracted by the warm weather all the time?

Winter is also the best time for food. The return of soup—the best food ever—to the cafeteria made me extremely happy. Of course, the greatest of food holidays happen in the cold months—Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas cookies, peppermint lattes (available for a limited time only at Starbucks during the winter only), Hanukkah latkes—I could go on. Even the snow can easily be converted to a sno-cone with the aide of a little Kool-Aid. Yum. How could anyone claim that winter is bad when it is clearly so delicious?

Additionally, winter has the amazing capability of turning the usually unfashionable into layering divas. In order to stay warm, one can pile on boots, tights, a tee shirt, and, most importantly, a big sweater. Voila—instant cold-weather fashionista. Sweaters and tights are a staple that would not be possible if not for winter, and such an absence would be tragic.

Then again, paradoxically, buildings are warmer in the winter than in the summer. When school first started and it was still 90-plus degrees outside, just about every room in which I had a class was over air-conditioned. This left me in a state of temperature change-induced confusion.

Forced to dress lightly by the hot weather, I had no defense against the frigidty of the inside of the school. Worse, fast temperature changes from cold to hot make me sneeze, so I was sneezing every time I entered or entered the building. I don't have this problem in the winter because the building's heating brings the school to a good, toasty internal temperature.

Of course, I couldn't write about winter without praising such activities as sledding and outdoor ice-skating. Sledding is the epitome of universal winter fun—the exhilarating ride down, the cursory check for injuries, the challenge of trekking back up the hill to do it all again all seem, to me, essential to any childhood. Without winter, no child would be able to experience that joy. Ice-skating, while possible without cold weather, is improved immensely when in an outdoor setting. The natural chill just begs for hot chocolate breaks between forays onto the ice.

Some snow-haters may complain that the snow keeps them from arriving to school or work on time. The only reason St. Louis has a problem keeping streets clear during snowstorms, however, is that the winter weather here is so wishy-washy. It doesn't snow quite enough here to have heavy-duty street clearing equipment.

If St. Louis would just take a cue from northern cities like Chicago or Milwaukee and increased the snowfall and had a real winter, then the city's snow clearing technology would improve by necessity.

Unquestionably, winter is the most romantic season. With a constant chill in the air, winter just begs for closeness and flirtation. The scenery of winter—twinkling snow-covered stretches of land, white-lit trees, and crystal clear night skies—easily inspires romance. Can summer, with its sticky air and radiating sun, claim the same?

Overall, winter is just better than summer. Without winter, there would be no four-season rotation.

One long stretch of endless summer seems rather tedious. Given the choice, I would much rather be cold than hot. In fact, as soon as I graduate, I'm getting out of here and going north. It's much more wintry up there. ☺



## A letter to the editors

In response to the October 2010 staff editorial "The extinction of the D"

Did you see the Sunday New York Times of August 8 front-page story "Students Can't Get a D Here, No Matter How Little They Try"? Just when you thought you could not top Ripley's Believe It Or Not stories out of K-12 education, we have yet a new whopper that defies even kindergarten-level logic. The Times reported on a school district in New Jersey, Mt. Olive, whose board at the suggestion of the superintendent has eliminated the D grade, thinking this will somehow push students to get at least C grades. (This is akin to Major League Baseball announcing that it no longer will allow players to bat in the .200-.230 range and that you will either bat somewhere above .230 or below .200.)

Admittedly it is refreshing that this school district still retains the F grade; after all, many schools have effectively eliminated the F grade, since in their "we will not allow students to fail" ethos, many schools now do

not allow teachers to give less than 50 points for turning in poor work, including no work whatsoever, i.e. you get 50 points, close to passing. If you have a pulse. Still, anybody with half a brain who has observed K-12 can pretty well predict what the result of the Mt. Olive "No D grade" policy will be—it will inevitably only add to the grade inflation that already is an epidemic nationwide, since (1) what are the chances a teacher, if forced to give a student either a C or an F, will give the student an F? and (2) what are the chances students will not be able to "earn" a C when, according to the article, students will be given endless chances to retake exams and redo work until they avoid flunking?

Duh, you think that Mt. Olive may see a huge increase in C grades as opposed to D and F grades in the future? You think? Especially when their bosses tell them that they want to see higher GPAs by students? Given

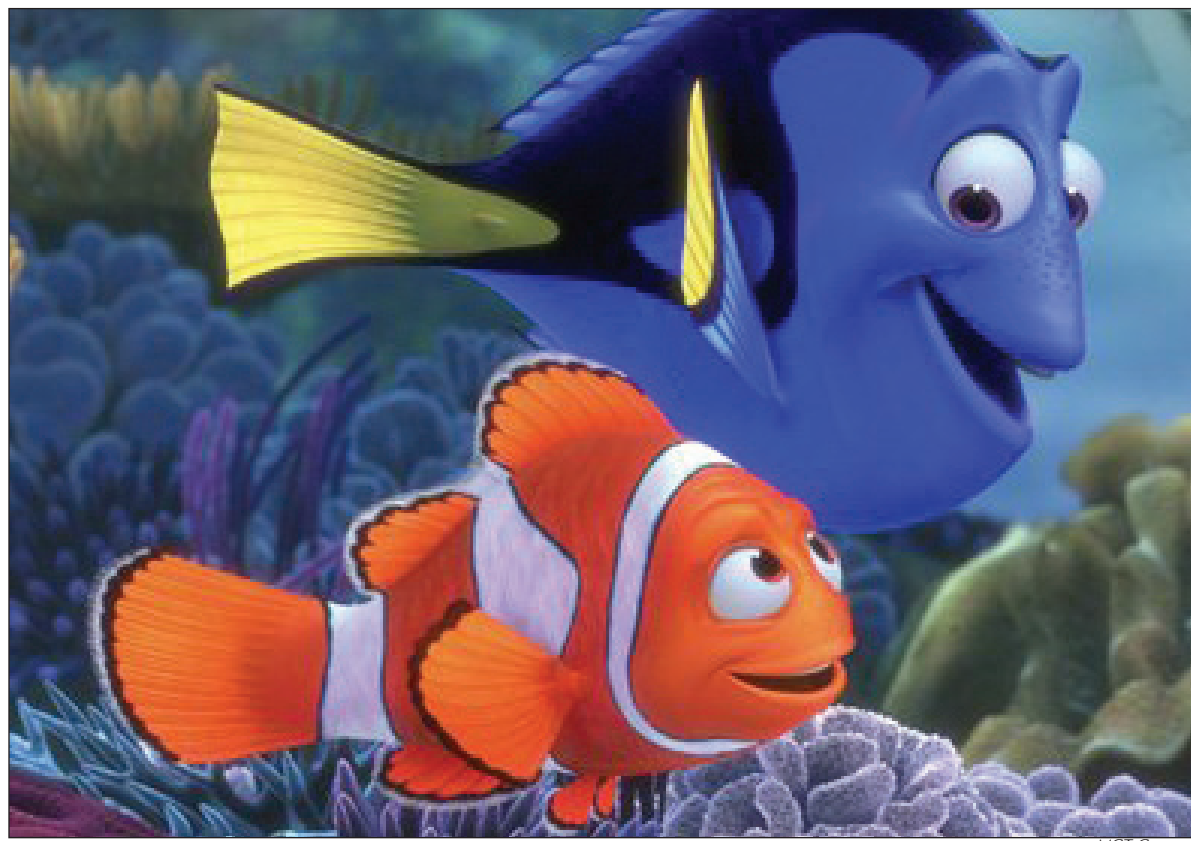
pack pedagogy that afflicts K-12 education in America, you can bet that this brainstorm will catch on in other schools as well across the country as the latest fad in the "failure is not an option" movement. Why don't we just eliminate grades altogether, which is something many progressive educators would love to do if they could get away with it?

J. Martin Rochester

Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science

University of Missouri-St. Louis





## Childhood movie makes lasting impact in high school

When my clock hits midnight and I still have a stack of homework with a height that could challenge Mount Kilimanjaro's, I find myself leaning back in my chair, closing my eyes, and chanting: "Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming."

The above line is easily identifiable to any American teen. Made famous by the beloved animated blue fish, Dori, in the classic children's comedy "Finding Nemo," the line has become commonplace in pop culture. While the line is just a cheesy cliché put to a catchy tune in the movie, the line has a certain personal significance for me.

I incorporated it into my college essay, it was the concluding line of a sermon I wrote, it will be one of my senior quotes in the yearbook, and I often give it out as a piece of advice. I am not sure how it happened, but somewhere along my high school career the line became a personal mantra of sorts.

In high school it is easy for things to pile up: classes, extracurriculars, family, friends - all on top of a life. Often, before I know it, the items on my to-do list take longer to complete than there are hours in the day. This realization usually leads to a state of panic and ends with

me curling up in the fetal position on the floor. Well usually it doesn't go that far.

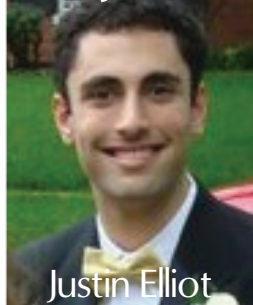
It is a vicious, vicious cycle that I am sure many high school students have faced: too much work, which leads to lack of motivation, which leads to the same amount of work and less time. It has taken me nearly three years of high school to realize my flaw and I still will do anything to evade what needs to be done. From cleaning my room to making extravagant to-do lists, anything is better than what I actually need to do.

However, Dori has gotten me through many long nights. When I find myself straying away from what I need to do, I think of the line and hit the books. I can't say the line works 100 percent of the time, but when it does, it never fails at crossing at least a few things off of my list. It seems like common sense, when I have work, do it. However, for whatever reason, thinking of an animated blue fish singing makes getting down to business just a little easier.

So the next time it seems like your night's homework is more like a herculean feat than a humanly attainable task, I am not making any promises, but you might want to give it a try.

Just keep swimming. ☺

This JUST in!



Justin Elliot

## The price of free elections

Increased prevalence of political donations and lobbying is running the risk of comprising American democracy.

Imagine a nation where a just and equal government is promised. Power is arranged to be held in the hands of elected representatives who take non-biased actions with the best interests of their constituents in mind.

The United States by no means meets this farfetched ideal. Instead, the political playing field is largely manipulated by the shifty hands of massive corporations.

Their intentions? To gain favor of the government and push for admittance of legislation the corporations will benefit from.

One alarming statistic is the surge of campaign support through financial backing in recent years. AT&T, the top contributor for the political spectrum from 1989-2010, spent \$1.7 million total in the 1990 election cycle, yet 20 years later, spent \$3 million in the 2010 election cycle, almost double their previous expenditures.

Additionally, Democrat Barack Obama raised \$745 million, compared to Republican John McCain's \$368 million raised in the 2008 presidential race.

The accumulated amount of cash raised by candidates for presidential campaigns, and the relation to the winner is simply another confirmation of the aforementioned surge of campaign financial support.

Had Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States, not raised roughly twice the money that John McCain had raised, it is questionable whether he would have succeeded in the 2008 presidential race.

Therefore, the financial backing of donors is ultimately what leads a candidate to victory; money is the key and assumedly, for the candidate with more dough, election will be a cakewalk. Is this the America to be proud of? A land where money is king and charismatic leaders can

claim the crown?

Of course, Obama arguably raised the \$745 million through persistent campaigning and efficient means of inspiring volunteers to spread his name like wildfire. Furthermore, one would expect those who supported him financially to know his policies and future plans and favor them.

Another politician the media has flocked around because of lobbyist interactions in the past two decades is Republican House Representative and Minority Leader John Boehner.

Boehner has been involved in numerous controversial and questionable lobbyist interactions throughout his political career, most notably his support for tobacco and cigarette companies.

In June 1995, Boehner, with immense financial backing and influence from tobacco companies, distributed several checks from Brown & Williamson Corporation's political action committee, all addressed to Republican House members. Even more appalling is the fact that Boehner had the nerve to hand them out on the House floor, either a slap in the face to the American ideal supporting honest politics or preventative measures to prevent accusation of an underhand deal.

Either way, the fact that a single industry or even a single corporation can wield such immense influence over politics simply by means of money is frightening.

Now, 15 years after the aforementioned incident, Boehner is again accumulating attention for his interactions with lobbyists as the one year anniversary nears for another incident concerning over 100 lobbyist groups and blockage of a bill. As "A G.O.P. Leader Tightly Bound to Lobbyists" by Eric Liptop of New York Times points out, it is hard to accept hundreds of thousands of

dollars, private jet rides, and trips to luxurious resorts, but not be influenced by the providing corporations.

Escalating the worrisome corrupting influence is the landmark Supreme Court case earlier in January this year, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which ruled that the government cannot ban political spending by corporations in candidate elections.

The 5-4 division of in the Supreme Court reflected the slight majority opinion which argued that the government cannot regulate political speech; therefore campaign spending cannot be limited or regulated because the contributions are a "form of speech".

The reasoning behind the ruling is understandable but we must ask, is it worth the devastating corruption that will penetrate the political membrane in coming years?

Furthermore, while corporations must still disclose their spending and provide disclaimers in advertisements, a sigh of relief, they still brandish their loaded pockets as weapons with which they can steer the direction of legislature.

As a nation, we can only wait, cringing with the hope that politicians can steer a straight moral course.

This is the vicious cycle of corruption in American and surely foreign politics. Is it just? No.

Should it be stopped? Not necessarily; without political funding, candidate names would never reach the far corners of the United States. Yes, even Palin's house with the lakefront view of Russia would not be reached.

However, it is important to understand that politics in America is very shady business.

Very shady business indeed. ☹

## Trip to China reminds of freedom at home

In the last several decades, China has arisen as a major global power, gaining influence around the world. The ascent of China onto the world economic and political stage has incited fear, and suspicion for many, myself included at times.

In my time as a high school student, I have taken the opportunity to take Chinese language classes. Last year I learned that the Chinese government provides backing for foreign students to come to China through an organization called the Confucius Institute.

The Confucius Institute is part of the Department of Ministry in the government in Beijing. I was first reluctant to go, however, my curiosity took over my fears, and I decided to take the trip. My stay in China was paid for entirely by the Chinese government except transportation there.

Before I was able to see China for myself, I endured 17 hours of flying, going to Chicago, Newark, then to Beijing. My trip began in Beijing for about two days where I was able to visit the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and the Forbidden City. To me, these all represent architectural wonders, ancient structures that are grand and immense. It was just plain amazing to try to comprehend the amount of work that was done to build them.

After my brief stop in Beijing, I journeyed then to the Xuzhou, a small city by Chinese standards—just a couple million people. Xuzhou is where the bulk of my stay was. Here I attended a middle school every day with Chinese language and cultural instruction. Some of my classes were tea appreciation, pottery, tai chi, calligraphy, and paper-cutting.

The middle school I attended consisted of two main buildings, each five stories high. The school had more than 3000 students. It made me feel like CHS was a small school by comparison. I was surprised to see the amount of technology that the school had. There were two projectors in most classrooms with a chalkboard and also a computer room.

One of my favorite places in Xuzhou was the city park just across from my hotel. But just crossing the street to get to it was an ordeal in itself. Crosswalks are virtually non-existent or simply not regarded by the local drivers, so most of the time, I found myself advancing across the street, one lane at a time—hoping and that some speeding car or motorbike would not be unfortunate enough to hit my chest.

The park was one of the places where I felt that I gained the most in learning about Chinese culture. Every morning and night I was able to see firsthand tai chi classes and dance classes—mostly attended by the elderly.

Actually, one night I decided to try to attempt to follow the dance moves being led by the dance instructor. After a couple of moments of joining them in the back, the whole class was eyeing me, and I found myself being led to the front, so I could be next to the instructor. I really got to love the people while I was there.

I was surprised at the number of manual laborers who work in the parks, some even doing the daily job of taking gum off benches. Perhaps this results from the large labor force that China has currently has. It is hard to imagine in America, people who would daily clean the benches.

One of the most memorable experiences I had while in China was getting sick. On the day before I had vis-

ited Confucius' home and temple. It had been a hot day and I decided with most of my group to get some cheap ice-cream off the street, about 15 cents.

The following day I experienced stomach pain and several different complications. I decided to stay in the hotel and hopefully rest off whatever my sickness. I did sleep a little, but found myself no better. As my trip was being funded by the Chinese government, my sickness was reported from the provincial government all the way to the government in Beijing.

I was told from Beijing that they wanted me to go to the hospital. I visited the hospital and found that I had food poisoning. I received a couple of shots, and then had an IV for about an hour.

When I got home, I learned that I had been infected with salmonella.

The hospital experience was interesting, as there was no air conditioning, most of the doctors were in their mid twenties, and smoking was allowed by the patients, even while they were in bed. The culture and environment at the hospital was very different than one would experience in China.

I am grateful for my experience in China as it showed me how America is so unique and special, in how so much liberty and freedom is given to its citizens. I saw firsthand the contradictions of supposed freedom given in China.

In the time while visiting Tiananmen Square I asked my tour guide a question about Deng Xiaoping, a leader in China that helped push for the opening of China to the world.

My tour guide had on the bus seemed somewhat open in the concern of Mao Zedong's policies that led to the destruction of many historical sites. Now we were in public she answered my question by saying that there were spies here and that we needed to be careful in what we said.

On another occasion, I was talking with a recent college graduate who had just majored in English. The discussion started with racism in China, but turned to the place of religion in Chinese lives. All of a sudden after just a couple moments, she told me that we should not be talking about such things.

Censorship does indeed exist in China. Although as an American, my freedoms are not unlimited, I generally do not have to worry about the regulation of my liberties every time I speak or act. My Chinese guides spoke very carefully.

I love America. I also came to love China on my trip there. The culture is incredibly deep and the people truly care about other people. Although I cannot say that I agree always with China, for example in their imprisonment of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Liu Xiaobo, but I feel that I understand China better and am more accepting of its rise.

I plea that with economic growth will come an expansion of liberty and freedom for the Chinese people. Hopefully, as nations work together, prosperity can be shared for all people, but inalienable freedoms also can become more universal.

Prosperity is of limited value when people do not have a common enjoyment of the inalienable rights of freedom. I myself will cherish and guard my freedoms. I earnestly wish that all peoples of the earth might be free to enjoy the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit happiness. ☺



Jonathan Shumway

"Prosperity is of limited value when people do not have a common enjoyment of the inalienable rights of freedom. I myself will cherish and guard my freedoms. I earnestly wish that all peoples of the earth might be free to enjoy the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit happiness."



Courtesy of Jonathan Shumway

Junior Jonathan Shumway stands in front of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, where he visited last year. Shumway was able to go to China for free through the Confucian Institute of the Chinese Department of Ministry.





Used with permission of the Tait family

Junior Sarah Tait, at a younger more gullible age, shares a moment with her father.

## Childhood gullibility fades, but faith in parents stays

I've always been gullible, even embarrassingly so, but I blame my childhood for this unfortunate trait. When I was younger, my dad promised me that he made both light and the weather, and I firmly believed him.

My father, taking great joy in playing practical jokes on even his own children, went to great lengths to instill in me such a firm faith in his powers.

On days before a big snowfall, my dad would wake up earlier than usual to check the weather so that when I woke up he could tell me, "Sarah, I think I just might make some snow today."

On Christmas, he strung lights all over the bushes in front of our house and around our doorway. Just before pressing the button to turn on the lights he told me, "Sarah, I'm going to make light for you."

Sure enough, he clapped his hands and voila! The entire house lit up! Needless to say, after several of these displays of power, I was thoroughly convinced that my father was responsible for creating light and the weather.

My father was kind of enough to let this practical joke last all the way through kindergarten. One day, my dad was telling me and my sister how he was once again going to make some snow the following day.

My sister immediately rolled her eyes and scoffed, "Dad, you know we don't actually think you make snow, right Sarah?"

I laughed nervously and agreed maybe a little too quickly with my sister, assuring her that I certainly wasn't naïve enough to believe that my father really was in control of the weather.

In reality, that was the first moment I realized that my dad didn't have the supernatural powers I put so much faith in. That was the first moment I began to grow up.

When we are young, parents appear to us as superheroes. More than loving our parents, we revere them.

When I was asked what I wanted

to grow up to be, I would always respond, "I want to grow up to be just like my parents."

To children, parents are these all-knowing beings that can do no wrong and will certainly never let anything harm them. No matter how strongly children cling to this view of their parents, they will ultimately be disillusioned; whether it's in the form of learning your father doesn't make weather or another way.

It seems that reality always fights harder to reach and ruin the innocence of children than a parent ever can to protect it. As we grow up, reality sets in and we realize that our parents aren't the superheroes we thought they were.

It turns out that maybe our parents can't protect us from every evil, and maybe they can make mistakes just like every other human being. When I first realized the picture I had of my parents was inaccurate, I was angry.

Whenever I got into fights with my parents, I was indignant that the two people I admired most not so many years ago could be so blind to my point of view. I spent most of my middle school years angry and dissatisfied that my supernatural parents turned out to be so very human.

As I have aged, however, I have come to terms with a more realistic view of my parents. Though it has been quite an internal struggle, I can finally accept that my father isn't the creator of light and weather.

But just because my parents aren't superheroes, doesn't mean they aren't still two people worthy of admiration and respect.

As much as I dislike admitting it, I constantly look to my parents for approval and encouragement because they are the most reliable role models I have ever known.

My parents and I still fight, and I still am almost always right, but no matter what we fight about I know at the end of the day they are looking out for my best interests.

Maybe my dad can't make snow, but he has always been able to make a better person out of me. ☺



Sarah Tait

## First Amendment should protect right to body piercing

The First Amendment is what gives us, as citizens of America, the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, and the freedom to assemble. These are some of the most important rights a person can have, and, as Americans, they are guaranteed to us through the Constitution.

I'm sure that most people have never had their Constitutional rights called into question. However, Ariana Iacono, a North Carolina teenager, has been suspended from her school on the basis that a nose piercing that she wears as part of her religion is against the school's dress code. Iacono, 14, is a member of the Church of Body Modification with her mother, Nikki.

Iacono's school, ironically also Clayton High School, suspended Iacono on the basis that her piercing violated the school's dress code. However, the dress code allows for exemptions for religious reasons. Despite this, Iacono was still suspended.

Iacono's suspension has triggered many responses. The America Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has sued the Johnston County, North Carolina school board on Iacono's behalf. Their claim? Iacono's suspension violates the rights given to her in the First Amendment.

The local chapter of the ACLU and their attorneys said, "This is a case about a family's right to send a 14-year-old honor student to public school without her being forced to renounce her family's religious be-

liefs."

The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I think that Iacono's right to freely exercise her religion has been violated. Even though her teachers and administrators had probably not heard of the Church



Marilyn Gund

of Body Modification, that does not change the fact that it is a practicing and valid religion. This case is heightened by the fact that Iacono's school is a public school, and so therefore has to accept all people regardless of religion.

The Church of Body Modification, while being small and relatively unknown, has a national following of 3,500 members. The church has a clergy, a statement of beliefs, and a

process for initiating new members into the church. It started about two years ago and took on the name of an inactive church of the similar beliefs.

"We don't worship the god of

body modification or anything like that," said the Iaconos' minister, Richard Ivey. "Our spirituality comes from what we choose to do ourselves. Through body modification, we can change how we feel about ourselves and how we feel about the world."

Even if you agree or disagree with the ideals of the Church of Body Modification, you have to respect the right of a girl to express her spirituality without being harassed by administrators at her school. Many people have never heard of the Church of Body Modification before. Also, the idea that to use piercings or tattoos to express your spirituality is pretty radical for many people. But, that doesn't mean that this religion is as

valid to the people who practice it as yours is to you. Also, Iacono's nose piercing would not affect anyone else in her school, so why should she not be able to have it?

Iacono's right to express her religion, as outlined in the First Amendment, should be protected in this case. Her nose piercing is a sincerely held

religious belief of hers, and therefore she should be allowed to keep it in when she is at school, or anywhere. What would the world become if we weren't allowed to practice our faith too? ☺

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment

## Traveler appreciates the intangible

I used to love those little stands full of touristy pamphlets and maps in hotel lobbies. They were a myriad of brightly colored advertisements for tour buses, plays, and "family friendly" restaurants—an assortment of activities that would allow any tourist to "see the city."

I would stand in front of the brochures and pick out one of each just to make sure I remembered everything about the city.

I thought I needed these physical reminders to assure myself that I would always have the memories I had made. I was afraid that I would forget the way the skyline of New York looked at night, or Pike's Peak at dawn.

When I would first open the door to a new hotel room, I would make a beeline for the bathroom. I used to judge hotel rooms based solely on their collection of free little shampoos, conditioners, and body washes.

The third drawer down on the right side of my bathroom sink was left exclusively for my collection. I would never actually use any of these hoarded items, but I just couldn't let them go.

Like the tour brochures, I thought I needed to keep a small piece of my hotel room to make sure I remembered every little part of my trip.

When I got a digital camera in fifth grade I thought I had finally found a way to capture every moment of my trips, a way to make my experiences eternal. I took blurred pictures out taxi windows until I got carsick, pic-

tures of every corner in the hotel room until check out time, pictures of every tree and flower on hiking trails until I had tripped over too many roots to count.

But when I would get home and put my camera chip into the card reader and download the hundreds of photos I had taken, I realized that the pictures never really represented my memories, and I had missed so many of the real experiences by obsessing over trying to capture everything physically.

I realized that I needed to see my trips and memories outside my camera lens. I still love pictures and the physical reminders they give us, but the very best experiences can't be captured in a photograph.

I understood then that my travel brochures, and mini hotel shampoos, and photographs didn't really mean anything to me because the very best of memories aren't tangible.

I remembered the things I marveled at. The way the very first redwood tree I saw humbled and awed me. The feeling of loneliness I got when I first stared into the ocean in Boston. The pit I got in my stomach the very first time I flew in a plane, and the three-hour trip I spent crying in my mother's lap.

These are the memories I think of when I look back on my experiences. I no longer have any meaningless brochures in my desk, or miniature shampoo bottles in my bathroom drawers.

I have realized that it's the moments in life that you can't capture that are what you live for. ☺



## For animals, it's no circus

It was strange sight to see. Looking out the window of the Kansas City convention center, down onto the cold, rain-stricken street, I saw an elephant.

It was not roaming free, knocking off pedestrians with its trunk — which surely would have been more exciting — but was instead lying casually on the sidewalk, enjoying a bath administered by a man standing next to it with a power washer. Like I said — a very strange sight to see.

I learned that the elephant was part of a traveling circus that was holding a show at the enormous exhibition hall adjacent to the convention center, where I was attending a journalism conference. Later I would see a cage in the street being tended

by employees of the circus that held a Bengal tiger, a female lion and a white tiger. The great cats bustled around in their enclosure, nudging and budging their cellmates.

To the casual observer marveling at the great beasts it may have all seemed innocent enough. I, too, was sucked into the shock and awe of seeing an elephant lying on its side on the pavement. But in reality what I saw was little more than a sad reminder of what the circus has

long been and still remains: a prison and, accusations suggest, a virtual torture chamber for animals.

Animal rights groups have long assailed the circus as inhumane. Claims of disease proliferation and conditions such as arthritis and os-

teoporosis arising amongst the animals are common, as are allegations of trainer abuse and mistreatment. I cannot confirm or deny these specific charges, but I can state the obvious. A Bengal tiger is not meant to be in a small cage with two other cats in the middle of a street in Kansas City. An elephant is not meant to be bathed with a power washer. And these animals are not meant to be shipped across the nation in boxcars and trailers and 18-wheelers in spaces so small they can't turn around.

The circus needs to change to adapt to new societal values that have developed since the modern show's inception hundreds of years ago. We don't need to go to the circus to see exotic animals — that's why we have the zoo and, more likely, the Discovery Channel. And the tricks and stunts pulled off by the animals at the circus aren't nearly as exciting as they were 50 or 100 years ago, before the age of technology. The circus should focus more on human



Dawn Androphy

A circus elephant gets bathed with a power washer on a Kansas City sidewalk, a sideshow for journalism convention attendees.

talent — acrobatics, gymnastics, juggling, fire-swallowing and the like — which are always crowd pleasers.

The circus has had its run, but it is becoming more obsolete with each passing year. It is high time for the show to stop its practices of animal imprisonment and probable abuse and adopt a more human-centered

program. For once you get over the euphoria of seeing a tiger just feet away from you, and once the smile induced by seeing an elephant's belly being sprayed as it wags its tail fades away, your heart sinks. And that feeling is the most important thing I discovered at a journalism conference. ☺

the  
globe

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The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, persuade and represent the student voice at CHS to the best of its ability. It serves as a public forum for the Clayton community.

All content decisions are made by the student editors.

The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Please contact our office for more information.

The Globe is distributed to students and staff FREE. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year.

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All letters to the editor must be signed when submitted to the editorial staff; the editorial staff will consider a request for a letter to be printed without a name only under rare circumstances. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for length and repetition. Letters are subject to the laws of libel, obscenity, incitement and copyright. All compliments, opinions, complaints, and suggestions are welcomed and should be forwarded to the Globe Office.

Clayton High School Globe  
1 Mark Twain Circle  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 854-6668  
Fax: 854-6734  
globe@clayton.k12.mo.us

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GO FIGURE



1 town

Florida is the only state in the U.S. with a town named "Christmas", featuring a population of 1,162. Other towns that have holiday related names are North Pole, Alaska, Santa Claus, Georgia and Noel, Missouri.

1.2

billion dollars

...is the value of candle products that were shipped last year for Chanukah, according to the Annual Survey of Manufacturers.



364 gifts

"On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me..." If your true love actually gave you all the gifts in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts, most of which you will have to return, unless you're running a zoo.

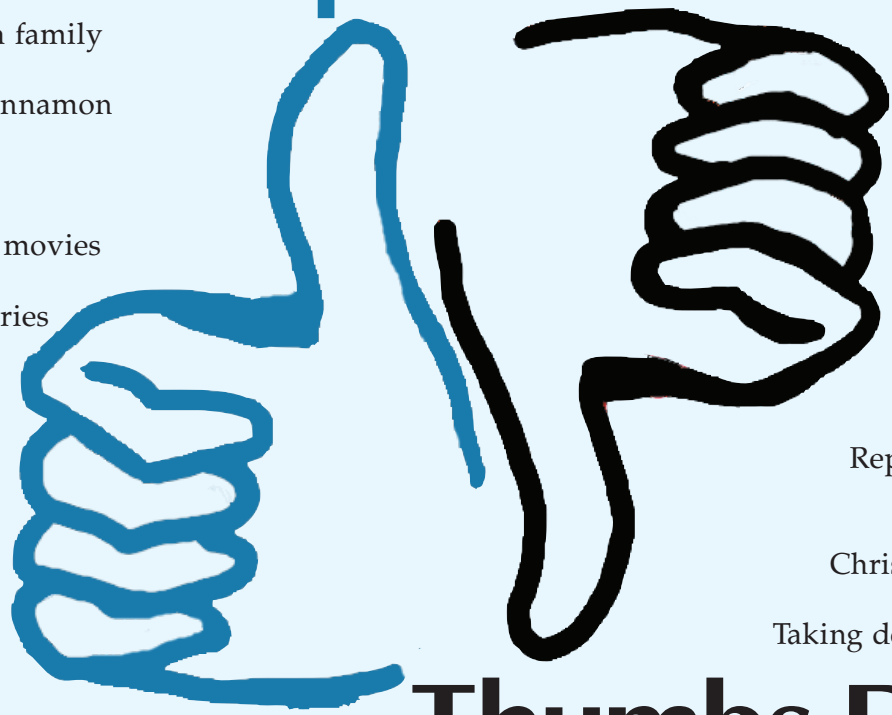
3,000 calories

The USDA recommends that the average adult consumes between 1,600 and 3,000 calories per day. However, most adults consume 3,000 calories and 229 grams of fat in ONE Thanksgiving meal. An average 160-pound adult would have to jog for four hours, swim for five hours, or walk 30 miles to burn off that ONE Thanksgiving meal.



Thumbs Up

- Being with family
- Smell of cinnamon
- Latkes
- Christmas movies
- Family stories
- Santa
- Pie
- Gifts
- Turkey
- No school
- Light show in Forest Park



Thumbs Down

- Returning presents
- Pine needles
- Squirrels
- Eating too much
- Being with family
- Holiday sweaters
- Repetitive holiday music
- Christmas tree fires
- Taking down Christmas trees

November 26

Football  
The football schedule is New England Patriots at Detroit Tigers at 11:30 a.m. on CBS, New Orleans Saints at Dallas Cowboys 3:15 p.m. FOX, Cincinnati Bengals at New York Jets 7:20 p.m. on NFL Network

December 3

Godfrey's Snowflake Festival

The free festival features carriage rides, caroling, hot cocoa and pictures with Santa. The Festival runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Glazebrook Park at 1401 Stamper Lane in Godfrey, Illinois.

December 11

Gingerbread Walk  
Take a walk along Main Street in Belleville with a gingerbread cookie bag and collect a different cookie at each of the participating 36 stores along the way. The cost for the walk is \$3 and cookie bags are \$8.

November 28

Chanukah at the Botanical Garden  
From noon to 4 p.m. at the Ridgway Visitor Center, The Garden will host "Chanukah: Festival of Lights" beginning with a symbolic lighting of the menorah, Jewish music and dancing. Admission is included with Garden ticket.

December 13

Yuletide Reflections

Sheldon Corale will perform favorite Christmas songs from around the world in Sheldon Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

December 29

Kwanzaa at the Botanical Garden

Celebrate African traditions with Kwanzaa crafts and jewelry. The celebration is from noon until 4 p.m. Admission is included with a ticket to the Garden.

December 3, 4, 10, 11

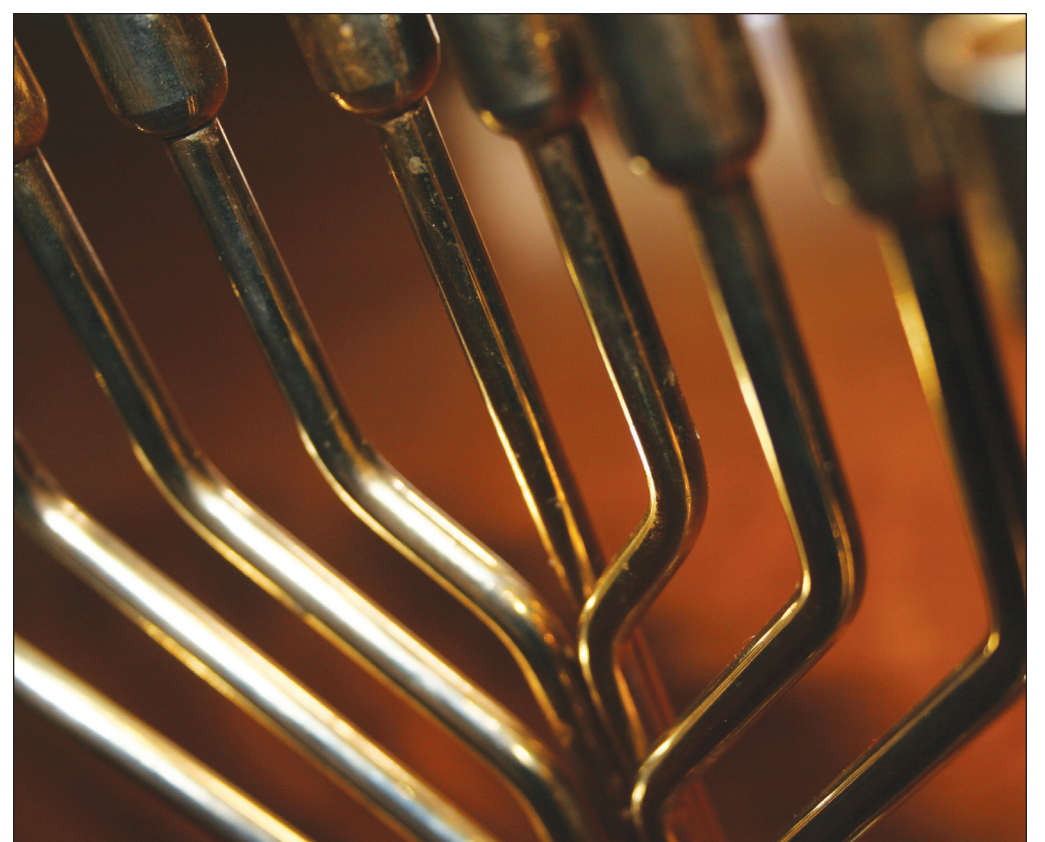
Candlelight Christmas

Go back to the good ole 1800s by taking a candlelight tour through The Boone Home and Boonesfield Village. There are nearly a dozen buildings decorated in 19th century Christmas. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

Wake Up Call

The Transportation Security Administration plans to install 450 scanners in 50 U.S. airports before the holidays arrive. 33 airports will receive the "backscatter" machines that use low-dose X-rays to produce chalky nude images with blurred facial features. These nude images will be inspected by an inspector in another room, who radios another agent if anything suspicious is detected. The TSA claims that these images are not stored and the person is not identifiable, but the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington D.C. has labeled this technology as a "digital strip search" and filed a lawsuit to restrict usage of the new scanners. Others are against the new scanners because the risk of radiation emission to children and adolescents has not been fully evaluated, and there is no policy in place for pregnant women. The sudden implementation of these revealing scanners is the result of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's attempt to blow up a plane over Detroit on Christmas Day by detonating explosives hidden in his underwear. However, not only do these high-tech scanners cost \$130,000, but they can't detect low-density materials such as thin pieces of plastic, powder, or anything resembling skin. Currently, travelers over the holidays can choose between using the new scanners or sticking with the old metal detectors, although agents will steer travelers to a specific scanner depending on wait times. If travelers refuse to go through the scanners, they can request private screening, or receive an aggressive and thorough pat-down. If travelers do go through the scanners, they will have to go through standard procedures such as removing everything out of their pockets, such as wallets, and at some airports, not-so-standard procedures, such as removing earrings and jewelry. Not only will lines at the airport get longer, but the chances of theft will also increase, so leave more time for travel.

Zoom In



This picture is a close-up of an object. What is it? Go to [chsglobe.com/zoomoutnovdec](http://chsglobe.com/zoomoutnovdec) for the answer!